Today: School league tables full 12-page guide inside Iomorrow: Education+ with 16 pages of appointments

The Tabloid **Bridget Jones:** revenge is sweet

Darkness at the end of the tunnel



The Channel Tunnel has tost its inin the safest form of travel between that possessions gases had not been that possessions gases had not been completely cleared, further delaying repair on which although the managed part of the train had been taken out lives has dimined hopes of light ever emerging at the end of the Channel tunnel's short but troubled the 700m-long 8.45 train from Calais existence.

Monday night while may not have caused any deaths, but it was a very serious event which will prevent any trains using the tunnel at all until late today at the earliest and will will close one of the two main train

smoke inhalation and several lorry drivers described how they choked in the smoke and were convinced that

Last night their were still fears that poiscoous gases had not been completely cleared, further delaying

to Folkestone on Monday night. The cause is as yot unknown, although investigators are concentrating on a lorry thought to have been carrying polysterene. "It seems like spontaneous combustion," one source close to Eurotunuel said.

On the face of it, the procedures

vere distribution to both Le Shuttle worked well. While all 34 passengers and Eurostar services. All 34 pas- and crew suffered from the effects of sengers suffered from the effects of smoke inhalation, none was seriously hurt and they were evacuated within 70 minutes, inside the 90-minute target set by the safety commission.

> However, it is unclear why the train was stopped rather than the normal procedure followed of continuing to the terminal. Eurotunnel uggested this was done deliberately after discussion between the chef train and the control centre in Folkestone, but Bill Dix, the managing director of Eurotunnel, refused to elaborate on why the train had stopped. It is also not known why the second-best option - to disconnect the freight wagons, and leave just the locomotive and the chib car with all the passengers to go through to Folkestone - was not taken:

There are three separate inquiries

Inside

It was like a tomb: I thought I'd never get out alive.' Fear of the future. The strange story of the fire story. Travel chaos.

underway into the causes of the fire and the safety implications for the future running of the tunnel. Inside the tunnel, there is a sad

Pages 2 and 3

hadly damaged. However, engi-

bosses must have hoped they would never see. The fire brought down tumps of concrete from the ceiling, destroyed a portion of the line buckling the rails and ruined trackside equipment, particularly the communications gear which will be very difficult to re-establish. Fifteen lorries were destroyed and five wagons

neering experts say that the structure itself is very robust and unlikely to have been damaged.
The financial damage is going to be very serious. The Eurotunnel president, Patrick Ponsolle, conceded that while insurers will pay for most of the

physical damage, the loss of public confidence could take longer to restore, however well the safety procedures worked. "This was a serious incident but it has enabled us to show scene of damage which Eurotunnel's the quality of our safety procedures.

We believe that it is through this incident that our number one priority, the safety of passengers, has been fully demonstrated.

While no one died, it will have reinforced people's often irrational fears of the tunnel and many may choose the ferries as a result.

In the short term, there is the possibility that the fire will undermine the current negotiations by Eurotunnel to reschedule the project's £8.7bu debt, especially as the banks may feel that future revenue will suffer so badly that efforts to save the company are futile. Eurotunnel was already expecting to lose £700m this year and further losses can be expected as optimistic predictions of revenues of £490m will be reduced. The stock market reacted pre-

dictably, marking down Eurotunnel

An inquiry by the intergovernmental commission has been launched and Sir George Young, Secretary of State for Transport, promised in Parliament yesterday that its findings would be made public. Eurotunnel admits things will never be the same again. John Noulton, pub-lic affairs director, said: "Inquiries like

And there is no doubt that these will cost money, placing further stress on the near-bankrupt company. Doubts were already raised yesterday in Parliament by Gwynneth Dunwoody, a Labour member of the Commons transport committee, over the safety of the freight shuttles which have lattice work sides open to the air. If Eurotunnel were ordered to replace them following the inquiry, it would undoubtedly cause Eurotunnel's bankruptcy.

this usually lead to changes.

n. Jn-

Christian who was | Golden days flogged for falling in love with a Muslim back for City high-rollers

By Robert Fisk

Beirut - Grotesque. Unprecedented. Bizarre. Though true, the journalists' adjectives can-not quite define the latest excess of a Muslim court. Yet Mona Ghalib's voice was determined down the phone line from her exile in the United States. What else would you expect from a Muslim worses, whose from a Muslim woman whose Lebanese Christian husband is waiting to be flogged after legal sentencing in the Galif for the offence of marrying her?

When I sleep than sleep all I see is the sight way husband being wanted

"I know my marriage was le-gal in 1995. We have the official papers from Lebanon where we were married in St John's Church in Jbeil! But the court in the United Azab Emirates has sentenced him to 39 lashes. This is not Inlamic law."

Alas for Mrs Ghabb it ap-

Alas for Mrs Ghabb it ap- You're not his wife any more."

pears to be the law in the im- I could not believe it." poverished emirate of Ras Elie Dib Ghalib, a Christian

marriage in June of last year to Mona Junardi, a 25-year old Yemeni-born citizen of the Emirates who studies at Francis Marion University in South

The couple met 10 years ago at the Intercontinental Hotel in Al-Ain where her future husband was - and remained until his arrest - the restaurant manager. "Even when I called my yed bin Sultan Al Nahyan - the changed."



image of Islam: A woman wears the traditional chador

husband's defence lawyer, he wouldn't talk to me," Mrs Ghalib says, the indignation in her voice scarcely suppressed. "He said Why are you calling me?

It is only a few months since an Egyptian court ordered a university professor and his Muronite from northern wife to divorce on the grounds Lebanon faces the lash for his that his Islamic research work constituted "apostasy" But the Ghalibs have neither

the power nor the influence to stand up to a government in the Arab Gulf. Mr Ghalib was helping to finance his wife's university course but, she says, she has now been forced to sleep in churches and friends' homes for lack of funds. Her can hear yelling and screaming year in some of London's more personal appeal to Sheikh Za in the background His voice has sought after areas. This hap-

tulet - for a pardon for her hus-band has gone unanswered. "When I ask the Emirates embassy here for help, all they could offer was a one-way ticket back to the Emirates. If I took that, I'd go back and receive the death penalty."

Under Islamic sharia law, a non-Muslim man may not mar-ry a Muslim woman unless he converts to Islam - something Mr Ghalib has reportedly of-fered to do in prison - but Mrs Ghalib is in little doubt as to what lies behind this most disgraceful of judgements.
"I'm from Yesinen and wasn't

bom in the Emirates where they wouldn't dare touch the big families. The purpose of punishing my husband for marrying me is to tell all the other Muslim women in the emirates 'if you have it in mind to marry a Christian, we don't want you to have the courage or the guts to

Since her husband's arrest, Mrs Chalib has been studying Islamic law interpreted by scholars of Ai Azhar university in Cairo. "Islamic law doesn't say that a husband must be beat-

Amnesty International be-lieves he has already been whipped several times during interrogation.
Mrs Ghalib said: He has called a couple of times from prison, just for two minutes. I

high-rollers

Peter Rodgers Financial Editor

The fat cats of the utilities have been left in the shade by immense rewards for dealers in the City, where bonuses and profit sharing on the Stock Exchange soared almost £100m to a record £315m in the

vear to June. The increase, announced by the Exchange yesterday, was profits among 250 member firms - to £719m - after a spectacular boom year in the stock market.

For the City as a whole, the lucrative rewards of working on the Exchange are believed to be merely the tip of a far larger iceberg. Many hundreds of millions more in bonnses are likely to be paid out across the Square Mile this

There is evidence of equally high bonuses for the people who manage pension and insurance funds and unit trusts, for bankers such as corporate financiers who advise on takeovers, and for many other en or flogged. God loves all of staff. These include foreign exchange dealers and market makers who trade gilt-edged stock.

Estate agents believe that the enormous increase in City bonuses has been one of the factors fuelling a boom in the property market over the past pened during the housing

boom of the late 1980s, which coincided with the last great stock market bonanza.

The earnings escalation across the City has also been given new impetus during 1996 by the unprecedented movement of high-flyers who switch

firms to earn more money.

Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, the investment bank which is owned by Deutsche Bank of Germany, is thought to be one of the most aggressive, offering pay packets of several million pounds to star dealers and analysis. Sometimes, whole teams are poached from other firms.

The race to recruit the top people has led some firms to offer guaranteed bonuses to new staff, regardless of performance in their first few years. But there has been rising anxiety at the Bank of England and among regulators in charge of policing the City, such as the Securities and Investments Board.

Sir Andrew Large, chairman of SIB, warned recently that badly thought out bonus schemes can he dangerous because they encourage City people to take too many risks with other people's money in order to boost their own Bankers at Barings were lin-

ing up for large bonuses just days before the bank collapsed as a result of the activities of Nick Leeson in Singapore. Full story, page 24 Comment, page 25

New knife powers

Sweeping new police powers to stop and search suspects, and legislation to restrict the pro-motion of Rambo-style knives were proposed by the government. They were condemned as Draconian by civil liberties

Troops on hold

The British and US govern-ments changed their minds about sending ground forcers to Zaire, throwing the size, scope, and even the existence of the prposed international relief into confusion. Other countries, are still prepared to go ahead, but are rethinking.

CONTENTS The Broadsheet Business & City . . . 23-27

Comment19-21 Fireign News 13-18 Home News 2-12 Law Report22 Leaders and Letters . . . 19 Obituaries22 Unit Trusts23 The Tabloid

Crossword30 Finance20 Listings28.29 Radio and TV 31,32 Weather 30 Your money 13-19



while P&O shares prospered. Aberdeen - Bath - Brighton

Canterbury - Chelmsford

There are only so many official

Rolex jewellers.

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STRADLINGS.

ROBENSON

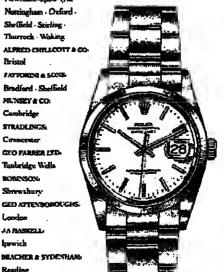
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'It was like a tomb down there:

Investigation will focus on decision to halt train and lead victims through tunnel

The investigation underway into the Channel Tunnel fire will concentrate on whether all safety procedures were followed and in particular try to discover why the train was

Safety rules - different for Eurostar and tourist shuttles because they are enclosed and drivers travel with their cars - are located at intervals of 375 outline three alternatives for freight shuttle trains.

The first is for the train to continue as fast as possible to an exit. If the fire is too strong.

Design

risks

were

known

about

connect the locomotive and pany's public affairs director, killed on a shuttle train as 5.6 the cluh car – where lorry drisaid that initially it was thought per 100 million transits, about vers rest - from the remainder of the train and head off fast down the track. That would leave emergency teams, who travel down the smaller service tunnel, to deal with the fire.

The third alternative, which happened on Monday night, is for the train to stop with the club car next to one of the entrances into the service tunnel. These

there would be a fire once every nine years, but "nowadays, vehicles are much more complex and are at greater risk of starting to hurn than old bangers were twenty years ago".

However, the inquiry will have to look at why neither of the first two safety options were taken and why choking lorry drivers had to be evacuated through the tunnel.

The tunnel was designed to Eurotunnel is confident that be safer than other channel it has devised set procedures for crossings and the risks are said ensuring that fires can be dealt to be the same as for any oth-with easily and an incident such er rail journey. In a 300-page as Monday's was not unex-pected. John Noulton, the com-sets out the chance of being

Safety considerations were largely responsible for a railway being built, rather than Mrs per 100 million transits, about 25 times safer than on an aero-Thatcher's dream of a 50-kiloplane. An accident in which ten metre road tunnel. or more people are killed But the safety requirements should not happen more than once in every 90 years, and one

became increasingly onerous, an issue that is still the subject of in which 100 or more people die a legal dispute between Euro-In some ways, the emphasis on safety has been responsible French governments over the for the near-bankruptcy of imposition of extra costs which Eurotunnel. As initial plans sometimes seemed to cover were being drawn up in the minute risks. late Eighties, a succession of Privately, though, Eurotimnel disasters - such as the Zee-

must be rather relieved that brugge ferry sinking, and rail accidents at Clapham and such onerous requirements were forced on the company, given that it has emerged from its first major incident with no

Open-sided freight car of the type carying the lorry that caught fire. The structure has raised questions about fire risk

Michael Harrison

If the Channel Tunnel had an Achilles' heel then it was always going to be its fleet of freight shuttles. Although they have proved to be the workhorse of the system, transporting some 1,500 lorries a day between Folkestone and Calais, a question mark has always hung over their safety because of the semiopen design.

There are usually 28 wagons to each freight shuttle.

The original intention was to design the individual wagons so that they were fully enclosed just as the passenger shuttles are. Drivers would then be able to remain in their cabs for the 35-minute journey and drive off immediately at the other end.

The Anglo-French Inter-Governmental Safety Authority objected, however, on safety grounds. It insisted that drivers travel instead in a separate amenity carriage and asked Eurotunnel to modify its design. Eurotunnel soon discovered

other than safety for not going ahead with a closed carriage de-sign - weight, cost and operational efficiency. that, together with the weight of the lorries themselves, a

closed wagon design would

that there were pressing reasons

place more strain on the shuttles than they could bear. cost would be excessive. When construction of the tunnel began in autumn 1987, the cost of the entire fleet of freight and passenger shuttles was put at £252m. Within three years that figure had ballooned to £603m.

By that time Eurotunnel had abandoned the original design and opted for the semi-open de-sign based on the Alpine rail tunnels where passengers, cars and freight have been carried since the 1960s without incident.

The change in tack prompted immediate concern. The Kent fire brigade warned of the dangers of fire being able to spread rapidly from one freight Home Affairs voiced concern.

Eurotunnel pressed ahead, however, with its design. Fire and safety tests were carried out at two locations - in Italy where the manufacturer of the wagons, Fiat Breda, has its own test-bed,

and in Hammerfest in northern Norway where one complete freight shuttle was fire-tested in a specially built tunnel.

Finally in October, 1993, the InterGovernmental Safety Authority announced that it had no objections to the semi-open shuttle design. By that time, however, En-

rotunnel had already placed advance orders for the fleet, a move that angered MPs on the home affairs committee.

Eurotunnel is now huying a further 16 freight shuttle wagons and two entire freight shuttle trains. This time the order wagon to another. The Com- has been placed with a Belgian Eurotunnel says, its hid was a third lower than the price charged by Fiat Breda. The eventual price will depend, however, on whether Eurotunnel is forced to re-design its entire fleet of freight shuttles.

Fear the key to future of company

Michael Harrison

every I,100 years.

King's Cross - heightened

awareness of the safety risks

Two hig financial worries now face Eurotunnel - does the fire threaten attempts to reschedule the project's £8.7bn debt mountain and how badly will it affect

The fale of the tunnel operator bangs on the answer to the first. The future of the tunnel itself depends on the second.

To take revenues first, it is clear that there will be a marked impact in the short term, with capacity temporarily cut to a third of normal levels. Eurotunnel had been forecasting revenues of £450m this year and stock mar-ket analysts had been even more bullish, pencilling in £490m.
With one of the two running

tunnels likely to be out of action for six to eight weeks, which will include the important Christmas period, and the remaining service subject to limitations, revenues will clearly suffer.

Eurotunnel was already ex-pected to lose £700m this year. The longer-term impact is harder to gauge since it will depend crucially on the travelling

public's sentiment. Images of smouldering trains in undersea tunnels and accounts of choking travellers emerging from dense smoke and "blow-torch like heat" resonate. All Eurotunnel's sooth-

ing words may not be enough. The financial community, has however, taken a remarkably sanguine view of the threat to the tunnel. "Frankly I don't regard the incident as a high priority," said one of Eurotunnel's senior bankers. "Sooner or lat-er this was bound to happen but

caught fire last year. Knee-jerk politics seems to be the vogue at the moment and I expect there will be a degree of that, but as an informed observer I do not think there will be any impact."

Jeff Summers, an analyst with the debt-trading agency Klesh and Co, which has been one of Eurotunnel's severest critics, said: "For the long term, provided this is a single incident then I doubt whether it will change the habits of the travelling public at all. If it were otherwise nobody would fly in aeroplanes or take ferry crossings.
"In the short term, however,

Eurotunnel could not have picked a worse moment. There is a difficult round of financial restructuring to complete. A lot of banks will take the view that this incident will lead to a lower revenues and high bottomline losses and that will affect

Under the financial restruct turing Eurotunnel is proposing to give the banks a stake of hetween 45 and 61 per cent in the tunnel in exchange for them writing off or converting £4.7bit of the £8.7bn they are owed.

Mr Summers doubts whether the incident will be enough to stop bankers from voting the deal through in the new year. But he is concerned about what would happen if Eurotunnel were forced to redes of freight shuttles. "If that happened it would reduce the num-ber of lorries it could carry and greatly increase the loading times. At one extreme that could be very damaging."



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Dangerous to fly over Africa, pilots are told

Airline pilots warned yesterday of an impending air disaster because of a "crit-ical deficiency" in safety standards in

most of African air space.

Representatives for the world's air traffic controllers said last night they had called a meeting with the pilots and that airlines could soon be warned that it was no longer safe to fly over large areas of the continent

A bulletin issued by the International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations (IFALPA), which represents 100,000 pilots, warns that African air traffic information is often "innaccurate" and "unreliable". Pilots often have no contact with the ground and have to pre-vent mid-air collisions by issuing radio hroadcasts to other pilots notifying them of their position and speed.

It claims thatrunways are covered in rubber tyre marks, rendering brake action ineffective. Airports are surrounded with high concentrations of hirds, and non-existent security allows people, animals and vehicles on to runways.

The bulletin said there had been 57 safety scares, including air-misses, over Africa since August last year and that "giving the flying public and pilots the impression that they are flying through an area in which their flight is continuated and a company of the control of the ously regulated and safeguarded could not be further from the truth".

It added: "The [lack of air traffic con-trol] coupled with a demand for more traffic in the region increases the risk, on a daily basis, of a tragic accident or incident occurring."

The overthrow of apartheid in South Africa has led to a 300 per cent increase in air traffic from Europe. At the same time, other African countries have lifted bans which had prevented South

Tony van Heerden, president of the Airline Pilots Association of South Africa, said Angola effectively had no air traffic control at all. "All it is is a billing service. They want to know your time of departure, aircraft registration

number and destination and say 'we will send you the bill'," he said.

Airlines must pay US\$1,000 (£600) for each flight over Angolan air traffic controllers have no telephone control with their have no telephone control hone contact with their counterparts in neighbouring Botswana, and a similar lack of communication exists between neighbours Congo and Zaire.

Mr Van Heerden said there were also tremendous congestion problems over Chad and Algiers, where there is no radar, and pilots are told to make their own collision avoidance arrangements with other pilots. In Francophone Africa, pilots and air traffic controllers speak in French, in breach of international safety regulations, which require that they communicate in English.

IPALFA said it would he meeting pilots' representatives in London in January, when a joint warning could be issued to airlines saying that it was no longer safe to fly over Africa.

Preben Lauridsen, president of IPAL-FA, said: "Some of these criticisms are very valid indeed. The main problem is that all the money airlines are paying in route charges is not going to air traffic control hui on road construction, industry or even arms deals."

Mr Lauridsen said the situation was so serious that airlines might have to soon re-route around the continent. 'Unless something is done, we will all have to say to the airlines 'you must not fly through this area because safety is not what it should be'," he said.

The warning does not apply to South Africa, Zimbabwe, Botswana Namibia, African Airways flying in their air space. Egypt, Western Sahara or Morocco.

significant shorts

More bombings feared after rebuff to IRA

A four-point peace plan has been carried to John Major by John Hume, the SDLP leader, from Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein leader. But last night ministerial sources

at Westminster said the conditions for a resumption of the IRA ceasefire were unacceptable, and it could herald a renewed bombing campaign in Britain. "We would not have a country or a

party behind us if we accepted their terms. It's completely out of the question," said one minister.

The attempts to hring about a breakthrough in the peace talks will be on the agenda today at a meeting between Irish and British ministers in Belfast. Colin Brown

£1m legal bill for ex-prime minister The former Irish prime minster

Albert Reynolds faced a £1m legal. costs bill, despite winning a libel action against the Sunday Times. A Dublin jury found in his favour but awarded him zero damages, and he had already refused a payment into court by paper.

'Wall of silence' over man who

died in custody

A witness to the arrest of a man who died in police custody was chased away by a baton-wielding officer, an inquest heard yesterday. "Patrick" took a lot of convincing that it would be safe for him to describe what. happened, the hearing into Wayne Douglas's death was lold.

The jury at Southwark Crown Court, London, heard that police met a "wall of silence" in their hun for witnesses to Douglas's arrest last December. His death sparked rioting throughout Brixton.

The 25-year-old former postman, detained after a chase following a knife-point burglary, was said to have been hit on the wrist with a baton to make him drop a kitchen knife. Pe James Page said Douglas repeatedly lunged at him and a colleague with the eight-inch hlade. "I was terrified," he said. Jojo Moyes

Newsman 'sacked'

The deputy editor of the Express, Ian Monk, was asked to resign last night following the arrest of his wife fon allegedly trying to sell stolen copies of the Allan Starkie biography Fergie: Her Secret Life.

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

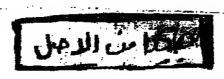
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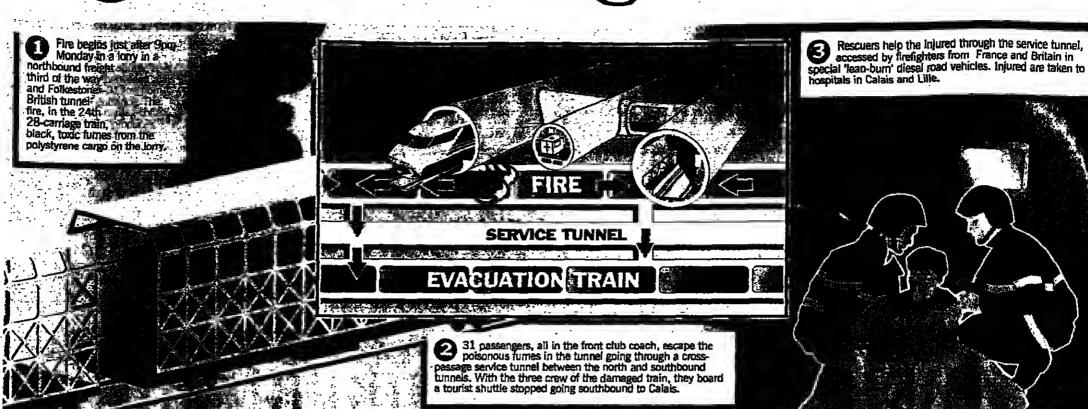
Lorry drivers, clutching napkins to their faces. lay on the floor

Christian Wolmar, Mary Dejevsky and James Cusick

The 8.45 freight shuttle from Calais on Monday night was full hecause earlier industrial action at the French end had caused delays. The strikers, angry at Eurotunnel's plans to cut jobs staged a two-hour sit-in, and resumed work only 45 minutes before the fire.

Eurotunnel was unable to explain exactly why there were 29 lorries, rather than the normal 28 on the the train. A spokesperson said: "It may be that one of the wagons had two smaller vehicles on it." The 31 drivers and passengers - who included a seven-month pregnant girlfriend of one of the truckers - were all sitting in the Club Car behind the froot locomotive. There were also two crew, the chef de train and the stewardess who serves the meals to the truck drivers. Behind them were 28 freight wagons, four loaders, and the second locomotive at the rear, a train of

700m in all. Denis, a young French lorry driver who lives in Scotland, said that he noticed something amiss early in the journey: "About 200 miles from the English side at around 9 04pm British time. It could not reverse because there or 300m into the tunnel, the Shuttle braked and almost stopped, then set off again." As a regular user of the tunnel, he said he found this unusual. But the first thing Emile Grard, the chef de train, noticed wrong teriorated, with smoke getting in - possibly because the door was opened in an attempt at when he was alerted simultaneously by a visual and sound alarm, set off by sensors, and by evacuation. Denis said he had a call from the British controller. . used four or five paper napkins Mr Grard immediately followed to keep the smoke at bay, he



Fire-fighting the news: the story of the story

blow smoke away from any

passengers, allowing them to es-

cape into clean air. However, it

is clear from the reports of the

drivers that this did not happen

and they were forced to escape

into the service tunnel which

runs in the middle of the two

main tunnels.

to avoid inhaling fumes, they posed to come into operation to evacuated the Club Car before out. "It was only when we got

Michael Streeter

As fire brigades from both sides of the Channel fought the tunnel blaze, the question was posed last night: did Eurotunnel news managers induige in their own brand of fire-fighting?

There was concern that the company, which had privately dreaded such the damage a fire would have on the tunner's image, might have tried to play down the impact of the fire - only to

er, so knew how to control his

breathing. "But another two

Jeff Waghorn, 32, from West-

cliff-on-Sea, Essex, said he and

other drivers lay on the floor of

the passenger compartment

section of the train fearing they would not get out alive. In a bid

minutes would have been im-

possible.

details began to emerge.

One BBC journalist said yesterday: "While there was no feeling of a delib-erate attempt to manage the news, there

was a sense of some complacency on

"And I think the spin doctors were spinning in the initial period between 11pm and 3am.

Certainly the first comments from Eurotunnel press officers just after midnight yesterday to the British media were

held damp napkins to their

noses for about 10-15 minotes.

We were getting light-headed.

Another five minutes, I think

there would have been a prop-

er disaster," he said.
It is unclear why the passen-

gers were not evacuated straight

away. It may be that fans at ei-

ther end of the tunnel are sup-

pressed a tack of information about At 00.0B a spokesman said: "We do

not know exactly what damage has been caused because the firefighters are still dealing with it." Shortly afterwards a spokesman was already putting the the on-going incident into historical context.

This is the first fire in the tunnel since it opened in 1994," he said. As the morning media covered the dra-

Mr Grard said that he had smoke and the lights had gone

provisation that saved us. We

followed the instructions, but

there was a point where we had

to start improvising ... I did as

much as I could. I hope that I

He said that when the train stopped, the tunnel was full of

saved some lives,' he said.

ma, the company was still emphasis-ing the success of the safety procedures and praising rescue crews.

Alaln Bertrand, director of Eurotun-nel Operations at Calais, told BBC TV

Breakfast News: "They have done a very very good job indeed.

Eurotunnel press officer Alison Andrews denied any complacency and said the company has simply given the information as it came in and was confirmed. "I think we played it straight,"

into the emergency tunnel that we saw the firemen. That's when I fainted." The next thing

he knew was waking up in hospital in Lille. Sonia Matczak, the pregnant 24-year old girlfriend of one of the lorry drivers, was also tak-en to hospital in Lille. She con-

cuers arrived. "It was very fraught," she said, "but the train manager managed to calm people down and stopped one person smashing a window.

French firefighters arrived along the service tunnel around 20 minutes after the train stopped and their British counterparts arrived about an hour later, having apparently only been alerted at 10pm.

The fire, thought to have started in a lorry carrying a load of polystyrene, was still smouldering seven hours later, having caused extensive damage to the tunnel including buckled rails. The fire was not brought under control uotil 6am.

Mr Grard and Ms Matczak were taken by helicopter to Lille. Six people, including a female crew member, were taken to hospital in Calais; 26 others taken to a Boulogne firmed that they had left the hospital and all but five were discompartment before the rescharged yesterday morning.

Chunnel survivors tell of terror in fum-filled carriage

Lorry drivers told yesterday of their fear when they were trapped choking in a "tomb-like" fume-filled compartment while waiting to be res-

cued from the Channel Tunnel fire. They said they feared for their lives during the blaze that left 19 Britons needing hospital treatment for the effects of fumes and shock. In all, 34

people had to be brought to safety.

Jeff Waghorn, 32, from Westcliffon-Sea, Essex, said he and other drivers lay on the floor of the passenger compartment section of the train fearing they would not get out alive. In a hid to avoid inhaling fumes, they held damp napkins to their

ooses for about 10-15 minutes. "We were getting light-headed. Another five minutes, I think there

he said. "It felt like a lifetime when you're lying there looking at your life and wondering whether you're go-

telling the driver to try to con-

He told French press agen-

cies yesterday from his hospital

bed: "The moment the alarms

went off, I pressed the button

telling the driver to increase

about what happened next, with

some reports suggesting Mr Grard told the driver to hit the

emergency button to stop the

train. It came to a halt just over

11 miles from the French end, 20

was another train behind it.

As soon as the train stopped,

conditions in the club car de-

However, there is confusion

speed to 100kmph."

timue to the English side. ..

Another driver, Ian Edwards, 53, from Burton on Trent, Staffordshire, said: Things got pretty desperate. Everybody was lying on the floor, moaning. One pregnant lady

said: "It was like being in a tomb. We were really frightened. That was the closest I've ever come to death. I thought my time was up."

ing to get out alive."

was getting pretty hysterical."
Fellow-driver Brian Shilton, 46,

The man who had prevented to-

tal panic among the 31 passengers and three crew was chef de train Emile Gerard, 43. He made those on board soak paper serviettes and



smoke swept into the shuttle train's for the health of her unborn child, passenger compartment. Later, he was able to lead people

Sonia Matczak, 27, who is seven

into the safety of the service tunnel panicking a bit, but Emile was the that runs between the two rail tun-

and a half mooths pregnant, was accompanying her trucker boyfriend oo hold them over their faces as toxic the train. She had been concerned

unaffected Freoch-bound tunnel. already named Julian, and was yesterday recovering in Lille after checkups for smoke inhalation. "I was

hero. He saved us all," she said. Six people were immediately taken to France through the service tunnel while the others were got out via a shuttle train that came through the

Eight of the worst-affected drivers the service tunnel hefore being taken to hospital.

All 19 people who oeeded treatment in France for the effects of

fumes and shock were expected to be released from hospital late last

Chunnel hoppers a stoic breed

The fire caused serious disruption for travellers to and from the continent, with huge queues in the Eurostar ter-minal at Waterloo. Yet most passengers said the safety scare would not prevent them from using the ser-

All car shuttles through the tun-nel were cancelled, and initial plans to transport passengers to ferry terminals on the coast were disrupted wheo had weather meant that some ferry services did not run.

Dover was heavily congested as traffic was switched from the tunnel to the port and Eurotunnel chartered two planes to take passengers from Gatwick to Paris.

Anne Andrews, a French woman married to a Briton, had been booked to travel to Paris for an overnight stay, to return today. Tve had to cancel the whole thing. I just tried to telephone my husband

but I can't even hear him because of the [platform cleaning] machinery. I've got two people expectiog me in Paris. I don't even have any Eoglish mooey. I really doo't know what to do," she said. Also stranded was Chiharu

Machida, a Japanese tourist, one of a group of four who had planned to travel over to Paris vesterday.

We just got here and found out. We don't know what to do. If we were European we could transfer another way but we doo't know how to make a transfer. We think we are best

to wait here.' The mood among most waiting passengers was one of resignation. Retired railwayman Geoffrey Un-

thank, from York, who was making a Eurostar journey for the first time, was unfazed. "It's very unfortunate, but these things happen. It certainly hasn't put me off travelling on Eurostar," he

SAVINGS Investment

Ideas

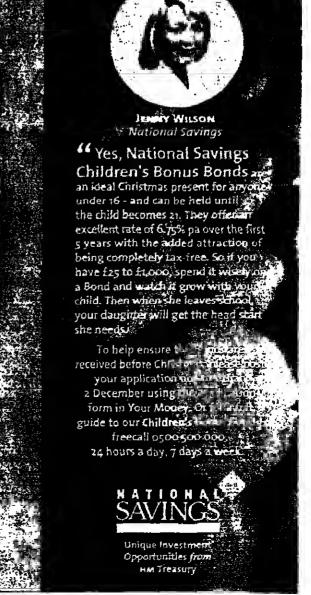
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I WANT TO BUY MY YOUNG DAUGHTER a special Christmas present which will start her off well when she leaves school. Any ideas?

Mrs A Harris CAMBRIDGE



The Government has misrepresented the cost of the Firearms Bill. They have undervalued the property they are to confiscate, failed to mention the cost of putting 2,000 people out of work and ignored the cost of the litigation which will inevitably follow their ineffective and unjust proposals.

Albie Fox, Chairman, the Sportsman's Association

The Sportsman's Association

of Great Britain & Northern Ireland

The bill is an illogical, media-led response to a complex problem. It will not work and may create a situation which is more dangerous than the one which exists at present. In attempting to ban a single category of object - centre-fire handguns - it fails to address the key issue:

spree killing and how to prevent it."

Mike Yardley, National Spokesman, the Sportsman's Association

The Firearms (Amendment) Bill

This bill is now being considered by your MP's.
It is most unlikely to affect conventional armed crime or prevent another Dunblane tragedy, but, it will:

Cost you, the Taxpayer, at least £300 Million*

* Some estimates put the cost of the legislation at over £1 Billion

Give the public a false sense of security

Put 2000 people out of work

Distract attention from the policing failure at Dunblane*

*Thomas Hamilton was investigated 7 times without action being taken against him

Drive handguns underground - fuelling the black market*

* Most experts believe that there are far more Regally owned handgons than legal ones

Misdirect Police resources on a massive scale

Patie

Ignore the advice of Lord Cullen's Inquiry

Why the Government's bill will not work

The Firearms (Amendment) Bill is unlikely to prevent another Dunblane type tragedy because it attempts to ban a single category of object — centrefire handguns. Such a ban is futile because a crazed individual might defeat the licensing system, or, much more likely, such a person might acquire a firearm by illegal means.

In his evidence to the Parliamentary Home Affairs Committee on the Possession of Handguns, Sir James Sharples, President of the Association of Chief Police Officers, said that bans would not work and that the police service had learnt that it needed to pay more attention to the personal suitability of the individual. Although ACPO's position has subsequently changed, we think the truth in Sir James' comments is clear.

So what should be done?

The Sportsman's Association want better laws and improved vetting procedures for those who apply for or attempt to renew shotgun or firearm certificates. Thomas Hamilton was investigated 7 times without action being taken against him. We must ensure that this never happens again. There may be a need for a specialist firearms licensing authority as recommended by both the Home Office and Firearms Consultative Committee.

A centralised licensing authority would take the administrative responsibility for issuing firearm and shotgun certificates away from the police and put it in the hands of specialists. The weakness of existing arrangements is that police officers may be sent out on firearms enquiries without adequate training or knowledge.

What will the bill do?

The public should also be concerned about the consequences of the proposed legislation on sporting men and women and on the economy. In its present form this legislation will destroy at least 2,000 jobs. It will dislocate the lives of tens of thousands of decent, law-abiding sportsmen and women too and cost the tax payer a great deal of money.

Some may say, that inconvenience to the shooting community, or slightly increased taxes for all are nothing as compared to the suffering of the parents and people of Dunblane. That is true. But, in a mature democracy there is only one good reason for legislation of the type proposed – a true public benefit. The firearms bill as proposed is illogical. It scapegoats the innocent, sets a dangerous precedent for confiscation of private property and may aggravate the problem of armed crime. It is the product of media-led politics.

The Sportsman's Association Office of Research Andrew Political No. 1. Sentinel Works. Whitchurch		ion Form	! apply for membership of the Sportsman's Association of Great Britain and agree to abide by its Constitution & Rules. I wish to register my protest against the proposed legislation to restrict participation in shooting sports. I agree that the Association may keep my details on computer and that the Association may rely on the exemption from registering under the Data Protection Act. I enclose my Membership Fee (minimum £5.00 Adults or £1.00 for junior members under 18) made payable to SAGB. TITLE SURNAME						
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If you are concerned a Firearms Bill and other a		.d	POSTCODE		TELEPHONE		FAX	LNO.	
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HE TRUE COST OF THE FIREARMS BILL

The Government has revised its estimate for implementing the firearms bill from £25-50 million to £100 million. But, the published costings are still wildly wrong, not least, because they fail to mention the cost of putting 2,000 people on the dole. They only consider costs for the compensation of property loss at figures far below true market value.

The Sportsman's Association has engaged specialist accountants to estimate the real costs of the bill. They have concluded that the likely cost of the legislation will be £450 million (nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ p in the £1 on income tax) with a minimum cost of £300 million. These figures are made up of:

- £56,000,000 (140,000 firearms to be confiscated from approx. 45,000 individuals at an average cost of £400)
- £18,000,000 (ancillary equipment which will become worthless when bill becomes law)
- £30,000,000 (loss of dealer's stock)

schools or 2 new hospitals)

- £150,000,000 (costs to the treasury in dole and retraining of 2,000 specialist employees)
- £200,000,000 (loss of 1000 dealer's earnings @ average of £20,000 per annum for ten years)
- £2,400,000 (the bill for the 40 extra Government staff who will administer bill)
- £456,400,000 TOTAL COST (which is the equivalent of 100 new

Even these calculations exclude the increased policing costs and the price of litigation against this mistaken legislation.

How the Sportsman's Association began

The Sportsman's Association was formed at Fisley (the National Shooting Centre) on the 19th October, 1996. Six hundred ordinary people gathered because they were alarmed by Government proposals. In just over three weeks, 40,000 more have joined their ranks. We are still growing by several thousand members a day.

Who has joined the Sportsman's Association?

Our membership includes thousands of ordinary men and women from all walks of life, many of whom are parents. We were all appalled by Dunblane but we believe that the Government's proposed firearms legislation is wrong. It ignores Lord Cullen's advice, will destroy a great sport and creates an ominous precedent for introducing drastic, irrational legislation as a response to calamity. If, despite our best efforts, the Firearms Bill becomes law, we will challenge its legality in home and European courts.

The Sportsman's Association, No 1, Sentinel Works, Whitchurch Road, Shrewsbury, Salop. SY1 4DP. Telephone / fax: 01743 - 461 689

ما الدعل



Winter's first blast brings white-outs and darkness

Heavy snow, torrential rain and gale-force winds blocked roads, closed schools and claimed at least two lives yesterday as the first blast of winter struck Britain. The snow came as far south as London and Kent. In Wales, electricity supplies to many homes were cut by strong winds

Further rain and sleet were forecast for

the south today, with heavy frosts and clearer conditions moving in from the north-west. The Antomobile Association said it was unusual for the South to have such conditions in November but a spoke the London Weather Centre thought otherwise. "It's oot that unusual to have snow in November," he said. "The last time

London had snow theo was in 1993." The worst of the snow, including drifts of up to eight feet, was across the Midlands and the North and in the west. All roads in the Pennines apart from the Mo2 were closed for

In Staffordshire a lorry driver died in a three-vehicle pile-up on the snow-covered M6. Drivers of two other lorries were seriously injured and some 200 sheep smilled on to the carriageway from one of the trucks. Some were killed by following vehicles.

The driver of a stolen car was killed in Shropshire when he crashed while police chased him at up to 70mph in falling snow. Rural schools in north Wales closed and in south Wales more than 8,000 homes were placked out.

In Derbyshire which saw up to six inches of snow, a police spokesman said: "We have had dozens upon dozens of accidents. Lorries are off the road all over the place. Snow affected parts of Scotland, with the

A90 between Dundee and Perth described by the AA as treacherous

Patient care being severely affected, survey shows

Hospitals warn of worst funds crisis for years

Health Editor

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The National Health Service is facing its worst cash crisis since: the introduction of the Government's reforms, according to a survey of finance directors and senior executives in trust hospitals and health authorities

across the country.

The survey confirms the re-The survey confirms the re-cent warnings of doctors and third of all health authorities, managers of an "emergency only" service this winter, which forced Stephen Dorrell, the present funding crisis. Secretary of State for Health, to

from the freasury. However, the sum won by Mr Dorrell - estimates range from £500m to more than £1bu extra in total applies to the next financial year and will do nothing to avert problems this winter. The Department of Health has ruled oot any interim payments to see

hospitals through this period. But the new survey of more suggests that patient care is being severely affected by the

The trusts are being forced to seek extra funding for the NHS increase waiting lists, lengthen

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out-patient waiting times, close beds, and reduce staffing levels in order to maintain some degree of financial viability, the survey found. More than onequarter said that they were worse off" than expected by up to film, and about one in twenty cited a figure of more than £1m.

Waiting hopefully: A bus queue at Portway Hill, near Dudley, yesterday. In parts of the Midlands there were drifts up to eight feet deep

"Even those trusts who are keeping within forecasts have had to take tough decisions and strong measures to keep with-in their budgets," according to the survey by the Healthcare Fi-nancial Management Association which represents all NHS finance directors, and the National Association of Health Au-

thorities and Trusts. Action being taken by health authorities - who purchase care from trusts for the population under their care - includes in-creasing waiting lists, deferring extra-contractual referrals to specialist hospitals or centres of expertise, and renegotiation of their contracts with trusts to reduce prices.

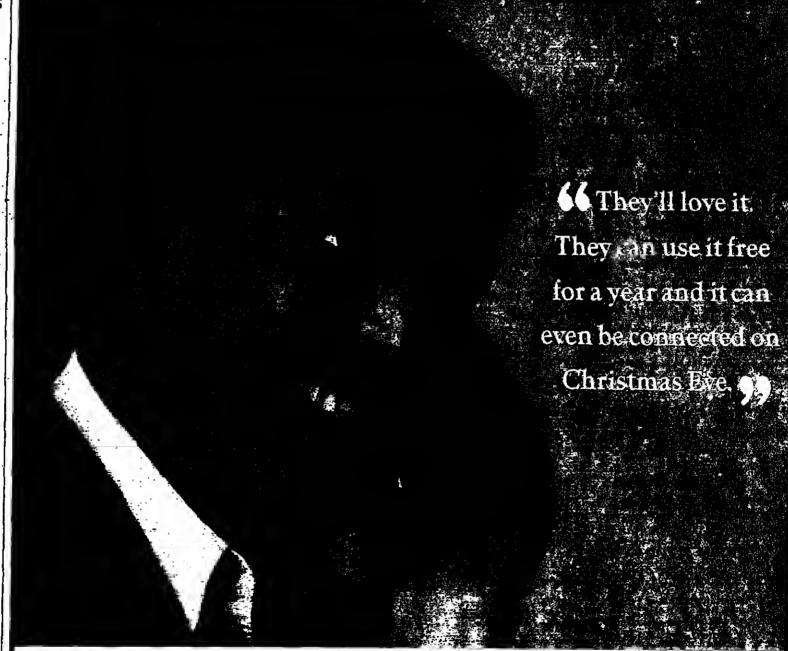
Almost one-third of the health authorities which respooded to the survey said that they were worse off than expected by up to £1m; more than one in ten said that the figure was more than £1m, and about one in eight said that it was more than £2m.

One specific finding was that 27 per cent of trusts were anticipating an increased income from extra-cootractual referral of patients, while 35 per cent of health authorities were planning to defer such referrals. "These expectations are inconsistent and one of other position is bound to worsen," the survey concludes.

Keith Ford, chairman of the HFMA which is part of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, said yesterday: "There are clearly a number of trusts and health authorities under pressure. HFMA is not interested in running scare stories but neither is it prepared to minimise difficulties."

The near unanimous view of health-service personnel, from doctors to chief executives, that the NHS faces possibly the worst crisis in its history this year, has meant that their claims are being taken seriously and not dismissed as the usual prebudget "shroud waving".

The Government's own fig-ures also lend support to this view. Earlier this month it was revealed that 36 trust hospitals were already in the red by £34m, just six months into the financial year and despite a statutory responsibility to break even. In addition, 63 of the 99 district health authorities expected deficits in the 1996-97



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A question of 'bad grammars'

New league tables show that some selective schools fail to deliver, a heads' leader says

Judith Judd and Fran Abrams

Fifty grammar schools are failing their pupils, according to this year's exam league tables, a headteachers' leader said yes-

Grammar schools select the best 30 per cent or less, and overall, 95 per cent should get five top GCSE grades, Peter Downes, past president of the Secondary Heads Association,

But the Government's performance tables for this year, published yesterday, show that, though some grammar schools are at the top, 50 schools did not meet that target and 18 had scores of less than 90 per cent. At A-level 35 of the schools were helow the national average.

The Grammar Schools Association contested Mr Downes views as "offensive". It said grammar schools' results were better than ever.

Mr Downes, head of Hinchinghrooke comprehensive school, Cambridgeshire, said that with the Education Bill, which will extend selection, going through the Commons, ministers had to ask themselves whether some of the 161 grammar schools were failing.

"The national average for pupils getting five GCSE grades A-C is 44 per cent," he said. "Any grammar school that is not getting 95 per cent should ask itself why.

"Either the selection process is ineffective and therefore sus-



Holding their own: GCSE students at Arden comprehensive school in Solihull, West Midlands

negative effects of selection is not dismiss the performance of Education, said: "Over five said: "Any attempt to argue that to depress the performance of

those at the bottom. Roger Hale, head of Caistor Grammar School in Lincolnshire, said the intake of grammar schools varied in different parts of the country. In some cities, the percentage selected was as low as seven while

in other places it might be 34.

50 schools without detailed information about their intake. We have been gathering information about test and exam results. Grammar schools are adding more value to their students than other types of

The publication of the tables caused controversy. Gillian eral secretary of the National Shephard, Secretary of State for Association of Head Teachers.

years tables have consistently driven up standards. This information provides an impetus for excellent schools and college to do even better, spurs those below average to set targets for improvement and galvanises

poor performers into action." However, David Hart, genthe improvement has been largely the result of league ta-

hles would be insulting to the professionalism of school staff." Critics say the tables do not present a fair picture of schools' performance because they do not take into account intakes. Labour has said that it will publish year-on-year comparisons to

ing and develop "value-added" tables to show schools' effect on

pupils' progress. Ministers are also investi-

gating "value-added" tables. Research by Exeter University's geography department and type and pupils' socio-economic backgrounds accounted for nearly 80 per cent of the vari-

Gulf between best and worst still growing

Fran Abrams **Education Correspondent**

and most successful pupils is continuing to grow, official school league tables published today reveal. While the proper cent this year, the proportion leaving school with nothing fell by just 0.2 per cent.

The government spent £1.2m on publishing its fifth annual league tables of exam perfor-The gulf between Britain's least mance and truancy for every school, making the exercise its higgest publishing project.

Last night a head teachers' leader claimed that the tables portion of pupils gaining five could actually be forcing some high grades at GCSE rose by 1 pupils into failure. David Hart, general secretary of the Na-tional Association of Head Teachers, said the "long tail of out even one grade G. One

underachievement" had remained stubbornly in place de-"If league tables are having any impact at all it is more than

arguable that they are damaging the interests of the least able," he said. Nationally, 44.5 per cent of pupils now leave school with at least five GCSEs at grades A*-C while 7.9 per cent leave with-

hundred schools, all of them fee-paying selective or both, pushed 100 per cent of their pupils through five or more high-grade GCSEs this year. In two schools, both with high proportions of pupils with special needs, none reached that

The school with the highest average A-level points score was an independent school in Birmingham. At King Edward VI

School for Girls, the average pupil gamed three As and a C. The highest A-Level score at

a comprehensive was at Folford School in York, with an A and two Bs. The top GCSE score at a comprehensive was at the Blue Coat School in Liverpool, where 97 per cent of pupils gained five or more A*-C

At the bottom of the scale were 21 schools where fewer

than 5 per cent of pupils gained five or more A*-C grades. On the truancy scale, the worst performers had almost a quarter of their pupils missing on any given half day. The most improved school was Banovallum School, a secondary modern in Horncastle, Lincolnshire, where the percentage of pupils gaining five high-grade GCSEs went up from 11 per cent in 1995 to 39 per cent in 1996.

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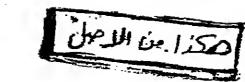
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It has been a century of extraordinary progress for the human race. But for many other species with whom we share this planet, it has been a century of decimation. For some, the twentieth century may prove to have been their last on earth.

The Wildlife Millennium Covenant gives everyone who cares about the shame of the twentieth century the chance to redress its balance in its last few years.

The century of careless destruction.

There will be fireworks and jubilation come the millennium.

Few will stop to reflect on the extent to which we have ruined the delicate balance of nature during this

century. We have destroyed natural habitats across the world and in the oceans and rivers. We have polluted the waters, burned the forests and invaded the places where animals have lived since time began.

We have used the gun, the grenade and the harpoon to exert our power over other creatures. And now we can see the extent of these human crimes.

There are just 600 mountain gorillas left on earth.

There are just 11,000 rhinos left - twenty years ago there were 72,000.

There are just 6,000 tigers in Asia - down from 100,000 at the turn of the century.

There are less than 1,000 blue whales left in the Antarctic - there used to be 220,000.

Over 4,000 species of animals and 25,000 species of plants could vanish in the next few decades.

You have probably heard such statistics before. Perhaps they grieved you. Almost certainly, you felt that one person could do little to stop this senseless slaughter.

The true answer is a commitment that goes beyond the single donation. For we are launching a campaign to find a thousand British people willing to make a commitment to give £100 or more a year, or just £8,50 a month, for the years 1996-1999.

It is exactly the sort of help that WWF urgently needs to sustain its conservation work.

Jonathon Porritt is a WWF Trustee and one of the first to sign the Wildlife Millenium Covenant. As he puts it... "So much damage has already been done. Surely now is the time to put it right".

Why a covenant is crucial?

A covenant is the most profitable way to give to WWF because the Inland Revenue will give back the income tax you have paid on your gift. We receive more than £130 for every £100 you covenant, and all you have to do is commit to an annual sum for a minimum period of four years.

You do not have to be in employment to sign a covenant - just a taxpayer.

The form is a simple thing - any friend, colleague or member of your family can witness your signature. We do all the work

with the tax authorities and making a covenant makes no difference whatsoever to your current tax arrangements.

If 1,000 people covenant £100 a year for four years, the worth of this fund should be over £500,000 by the year 2000. We shall have a significant new fund with which to finance some of our key conservation projects over the next four years.

Six projects will be given priority from the Wildlife Millennium

Covenant fund. One is the huge Thung Yai Reserve in Thailand, the largest wildlife sanctuary in the country and home to tigers, leopards, the Asian elephant, the Sumatran rhino and the Asiatic black bear.

Four other projects in Namibia, Mexico, Brazil and India are equally desperate for your help. The sixth area of support will be the South East Asia office of TRAFFIC, WWF's partner in monitoring the illegal trade in wildlife.

Will you sign the Wildlife Willennium Covenant now?

We urge you to covenant £100 a year from 1996 as your commitment to WWF's wildlife conservation work in the last years of the twentieth century. Alternatively you can choose to give just £8.50 a month. But if you can afford more, that would be a blessing.

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We are looking for 1,000 people to make this commitment. If we succeed, we increase the chances of sustaining some of the world's most endangered species. If we fail, their chances of survival diminish. Please make the commitment.

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New power for police to curb 'Rambo' knives

Jason Bennetto Crime Correspondent

New police powers to stop and search suspects, and legisla-tion to restrict the promotion of "Rambo style" combat knives, was proposed by the Government yesterday.

The two initiatives are the lat-

est attempts by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary. to tackle the growing concerns about the escalating knife culture. But the proposal to give police greater freedom to search people was immediately condemned by civil liberty groups as a draconian measure that could lead to unrest and discrimination in inner cities.

The Home Office is propos-ing to amend the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 to allow police to stop and search in a specified area for a suitable period" if a senior officer reasonably helieves that people may he carrying weapons or drugs. A similar measure could be introduced in

However after opposition from Labour it is understood

This proposal follows an announcement earlier this month by Mr Howard that the police code of practice would be altered to allow officers to stop and search anyone they be-lieved to be a member of a gang known to carry knives or other

John Wadham, director of Liberty, the civil rights organi-sation, said: "This latest pro-posal is a massive extension of stop and search powers. Any young person, any black person, any person with long hair, in fact any person at all will be subject to random and arbitrary searches by the police."

But Mr Howard said: "Extra stop and search powers for the police will tackle the real evil of people carrying knives in public without good reason."

In a letter to Labour's shadow home secretary Jack Straw, and the Liberal Democrats' spokesman Alex Carlisle, Mr Howard also proposed a new offence of marketing a knife in a way which suggests an ag-gressive use for it. This would

agreed to drop the drugs aspect apply both to its name and ad-of the proposal and restrict it to vertising. However Mr Howard vertising. However Mr Howard admitted this would not prevent the sale of any knives, just their

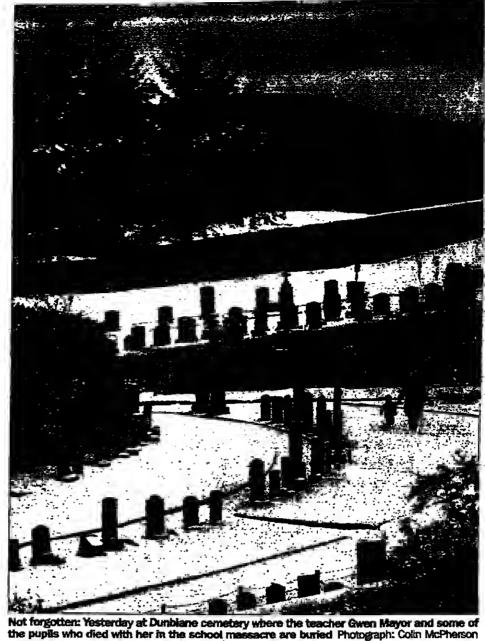
packaging.

He said: "This would not guarantee the prohibition of the sale of undesirable knives. But it would stop them being called by unacceptable names or being accompanied by unaccept-able language. The new marketing offence - aimed at weapons with names like The Vindicator - would carry a maximum penalty of six months im-

The new measures could be taken through the Commons by Labour MP Jimmy Wray. Mr Wray came top in a hallot for backbenchers to have an opportunity to pilot legislation on to the statute book. He is in discussion with Labour about the precise wording of the Bill, which will be published in early December.

prisonment and/or a £5,000.

Jack Straw said the Home Office proposals, which will considered by Labour when they receive full details, was belated recognition by ministers that the law surrounding knives could be



'16 tiny bodies in cold graves who should not be there

Anthony Bevins Political Editor

The high emotion of the Dunblane crisade against hand- ists and three Democratic

drop Campaign, told the BBC-radio Today programme: "All I know is that in the very cold cemetery in Dunblane there are 16 tiny children and a beloved. teacher who shouldn't be there; cold under the ground. "They should be warm and.

they should be with their families, and although money in the pocket is important, and basic ealth care and educating your children is important, what is more important is not having the life of a loved one taken from you, or a child of yours disabled for the rest of

Given the absence of 22 Labour, and seven Liberal Democrat, MPs from the vote, and a Government majority of 25 against a total ban on handguns. Opposition sources were vesterday keen to emphasise that Labour could not have won the vote - because the Uister

majority at present stands at one vote over all other parties, but there were four Ulster Uniongens communed yesterday, in the Unionists voting with the Government - more than offsetting the votes of the four Conserv-And Pearston, of the Snow- atives who voted with Labour and the other minority parties. In theory, the votes of the missing Labour and Liberal Democrat MPs could have been

> In fact, most of those n ing MPs were "paired off with 18 non-voting Conservative MPs. If they had not weather votes would have been never by Control of the contr by Conservative would have been focus

enough to defeat the Govern

up to vote. Among the Labour 2015 were paired in that may were some who have been ill for some time; and some, michading Labour overseas aid spokes-woman Clare Short, who are on official visits abroad.

Labour whips said that some of those who were paired, including Frank Cook, Stockton North, and David Young Bolton South East, would have abstained even if they had not

Tragedy shows it is time to do something for Scotland

The world stops rarely. Things notic and the people paid to put things into words discover premarch, trivia becomes of consuming importance. Questions you had never given a second thought become the only ones worth asking. You forget yourself.

But people are weeping in the street. Parents are scurrying for home, or fumbling for the telephone, or huddling at school gates. No one says anything worth hearing. This happens everywhere, simultaneously, while television becomes hyp-

A small nation is its own world, parochial, introverted, engulfed by intimacy. This is both comforting and claustrophobic. but it is a fact you forget until something profound enters the nervous system of your society. And here's another fact: Dunblane happened in Scotland, but it also happened to Scotland. According to the parliamen-

cisely how useless words are. That was Dunhlane.

begging the only question, emo-tion makes for bad law. It is their duty to be above such things when they defend the rights of decent, ordinary shooters against hysterical grief. (Quite a phrase, "hysterical grief": there's another kind?) So we elect to Parliament people capable of debating, with exquisite discrimination, the relative potencies of various killing ma-

Why not a ban on all handguns in Scotland, argues lan Bell tary friends of the gun lobby, chines who yet refuse to allow

the human currency of simple misery into their deliberations. But they won that point, the shooters, if no other, Parliament and media bought the line that any law made in response to the Dunhlane murders had to be dispassionate, infinitely reasonable, and above all immune to anything people actually felt. This, somehow, is how good law is made. Emotion is illegitimate;

what people feel is not a fit sub-

ject for legislation.
So Michael Howard produced his scales. The tonnage of hard evidence was weighed against the tonnage of lobbying. In the end an ounce of real feeling - the "emotional blackmail" of the parents and the Soowdrop campaign - tipped the balance a little. But just to ensure that Tory MPs did not let feelings get the better of them, the whips

noted on behalf of all. The beating of children is a matter

of conscience; the response to their murder, somebow, is not. It is difficult to convey pre-cisely how inadequate all of this, particularly for Scots. The very tone of the parliamentary arguments seemed out of scale and tawdry; the nature of the: people making the decision

ugly and obvious. It is tempting to believe the guns should at least be hanned

Tories, for their part, have no in Scotland. In the Westminster more mistakes to make in Scot-land. That, in itself, might be a impossible, if not ridiculous. mistake. The anger over this miserable compromise runs differ why not gan least? It is the deep. It is more potent than any row over toy parliaments and MPs. It is the wish, come to that deep. It is more potent than any row over toy parliaments and fax-raising powers. We will ban some guns, they allow. We will care a bit, feel a hitle. But not.

of the vast majority of Scots. Something terrible was done to Scotland at Dunblane. This stowhen a hobby is at stake, too much. Now vote for as, please,

The Scottish National Party mi proposes, meanwhile, that handry will not be over, you suspect, until something adoquate is done for Scotland.

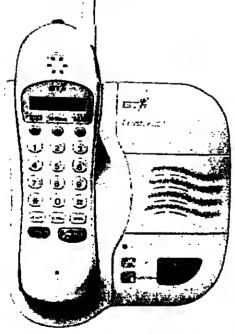
lan Bell is a collimnist for The

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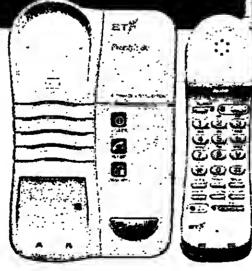
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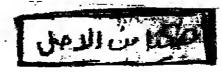
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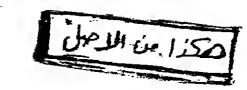
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Steve Boggan Chief Reporter

Fresh claims that the New Zealand rugby team was poisoned before its defeat in the World Cup final against South Africa last year have surfaced following investigations by the team

doctor and a private detective. Mike Bowen, the doctor who cared for most of the team when they suffered food poisoning oo the day before the final, has told a shocked New Zealand public that he has identified an African herb which he believes was used deliberately to

spike tea and coffee. Rumours of the poisoning have been circulating since New Zealand lost 15-12 in front of a triumphant President Nelson Mandela, but team members have been reluctant to discuss them because they felt they

would be accused of sour grapes. However, in claims coinciding with the launch of his autobiography, Laurie Mains, the team coach, says an internal South African inquiry and a private deective he hired himself found that the team's drinks were spiked with a herb known locally as "Indian trick". The herb is odourless and tasteless but is reputed to induce symptoms sim-

lar to severe food poisoning. I've always thought it was likely [that the team was poisoned," Dr Boweo said, "But I never had any evidence that anything was spiked." He said he had since heard that Indian

trick would have produced the symptoms suffered by the team.

Mains said his private invesogator had established that a South African waitress known only as "Susie" had been paid to slip Indian trick into the team's tea and coffee on the eve of the final. He did not say, however, how he could be sure or who had paid the waitress.

"I just knew this was oo case of ordinary old food poisoning," he said. "We were very, very sick, all hut about four or five members of the whole touring party."

sceptical about the claims, particularly since they coincide with the launch of Mains' antobiography. A fresh cootroversy is usually regarded as vital to the sales of sports books. Some believe the fact that no

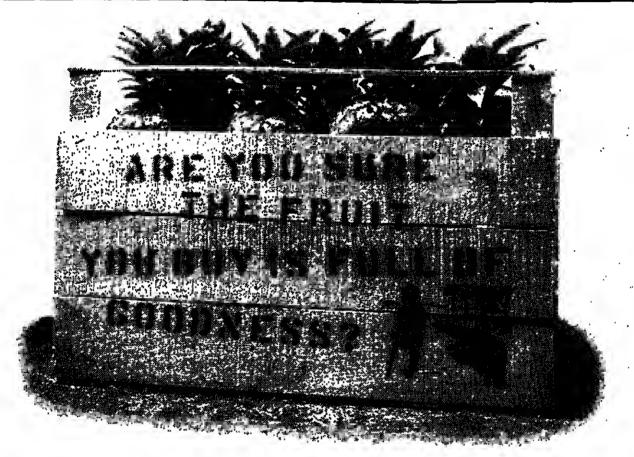
conducted by the New Zealand rugby authorities speaks vol-umes about how they view the claims. The new allegations were certainly oot being taken seriously by the South Africans.

should be saying this," Beston Banda, first secretary of the South African Embassy's po-litical section in London, said. They stayed at a hotel, so their food and drinks were supplied at a neutral location. We denied the claims when they first began circulating. I have oever heard of anything called Indian trick and, as far as we are concerned, we won the game Try scorer and scrum half join winger and kicker for eternal game of rugby in the sky



Stadium sentinels: Two new bronze statues by the sculptor Gerald Laing were yesterday put in place above the Rowland Hill Gate entrance at Twickenham in south-west London to complete the quartet commissioned by the Rugby Football Union. The first two players took up their positions last March

Photograph: Tom Piston



"I saw an accident when a friend fell from the truck taking us to the plantation. The tyre ran over his leg and he was sent to the company dispensary. They amputated his leg. He got no compensation and had to buy a plastic leg with his own money. The man has not worked since the accident." PENEAPPLE PLANTATION WORKER, DOMINGUAN REPUBLIC

Amputation withour compensation in the pineapple industry of the Dominican Republic.

Dismissal for not working overtime in the grape industry of Brazil.

The fruit in your supermarket trolley may look wholesome and appetising. hut there's often something rotten

The misery beneath the clingfilm

It doesn't stop at fruit. There are heart-rending stories of exploitation behind produce like vegerables, nuts, flowers, coffee, even prawns.

The derails vary, but the themes are consistent enough: low pay, tin-shack housing, unfair dismissal, child labour.

It makes you angry and it makes you want to do something. Well you can.

Why not a bovcott?

A hoyentt isn't the answer because it

can make things even worse for rhe growers and pickers by taking away the market. And in any case, you can't always tell just by looking which products involve exploitation and which don't.

The answer is actually more inspiring: it's to encourage your supermarket to ensure fair pay and conditions for the producers of all the goods it sells.

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Supermarkers have astonishing financial muscle. Some British chains have incomes higger than the enrire economies of Third World nations. When that kind of money talks, people listen.

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So let them know you want them to help change the rules of global trade.

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Channel Island people profited from Nazis

John Crossland

Details of the German occu-pation of the Channel Islands were disclosed yesterday, revealing evidence of islanders profiting from their neighbours' misery and the cruelty of the only concentration camp ever

operated on British soil.
The last tranche of Ch Island documents, released yes-terday at the Public Record Office, throw a harsh light on what the Germans called "the model occupatioo".

The files are largely transcripts of interrogations of escapees undertakeo by MI19 the intelligeoce organisation charged with huilding up a picture of enemy resources and morale. They give lists of col-laborators and "Jerrybags", island women who slept with German soldiers and frequent

ly bore their children, They also provide the fullest picture yet of the horrors of the Alderney camps, where slave workers - mostly Russian were starved and beaten to death in the sealed off island.

Jersey women's behaviour was resented even more than the food shortage. One anonymous informant told his intelligeoce debriefer: behaviour of a great oumber of women has heeo quite disgraceful. There are many ille-gitimate childreo on the island born to German fathers ...

Many of the mothers are married to serving British soldiers
...The states [island parliament]
at present have to pay for the apkeep of these German-sired childreo but what will happeo

after the occupation? He pointed out that under ersey law a husband was re-

sponsible for the upkeep of his wife's illegitimate children and there was no redress.

The report says: "Informants report a considerable discontent with the states administration. There will after liberation be a general demand for the incor-poration of Jersey into the UK they speak of timidity and tance of the demands of the occupying forces. The island bosses moreover have lived well. Though they may have oo increased bank balances at the end of the war as evidence against them, they

The island bosses have lived well.

They have never gone short of food and fuel'

have never gone short of food, fuel and other commodities that are in short supply for the

man in the street." A 24-year-old farmer, Oscar forman, and his friend Charles Bordis, a clerk, who escaped to England via France after D Day, singled out two racketeers for special attention: Mr Le Gresley, the food cootroller, and Major Le Masurier, president of the supreme council.

They were accused of taking the small amount of food left behind io 1940 and not commandeered by the Germans. "These few loads were takeo by lorry to the private houses of island chefs such as Le Gresley and Le Masurier. This was reported to informants by J Curwood of Rouge Bouillon who was one of the lorry drivers concerned."

Horman and Bordis told the officers of a new party that was formed on the island called the Jersey Democratic Society. "This is not a resistance group it is a movement with post-war aims," the files say. "It leads the campaign for the abolition of Jersey's feudal system

and independence by publishing and distributing illegal pamphlets in which instances of graft and double dealing are fully set out with names and evidence." The escapees described plans for revenge on unfaithful women. The patriotic youths of the island have their own plans well laid," the papers say, "They are not going to copy the French by cutting off the hair ... They have been collecting stocks of tar for the day of liberation and publicly tar and father all Jerrybags they can lay their hands on ...

The local police are determined to turn a blind eye when the busands return because murder will be done and public opinion will in general approve." The files give examples of war imes, including the crucificion of Russian slave workers and the drowning, in full sight of the Alderney coast, of a bailed-out

Lancaster bomber crew without any help being given. They con-firm that Kurt Klebeck, who unrecently was under investigation for his role in running the concentration camp on Alderney, was "in charge of the prisoners" on the island.

The papers also give a sick-ening catalogue of the treatment suffered by the slave workers used to build Hitler's Atlantic wall. SS guards used their bloodhounds to hunt the prisoners across the "deadline that they would be shot while attemptiog to escape".

Social services shake up follows abuse controversy

Roger Dobson

A major review of Wales's biggest social services department has been launched following allegations - including abuse, claims of child prostitution and mismanagement – that have seen three senior members of staff suspended.

Cardiff County Council has since taking over from the former South Glamorgan authority during local govern-ment reorganisation last April.

In that time, a former care worker has been jailed for abusing children in his charge, a lony driver who abducted girls from a home in the city has been jailed, police are investigating alleged abuse at the former laff

Vale home, a care worker has been disciplined for not following procedures when a 13year-old girl went missing, and a young man has started legal action after allegedly contracting HIV in care.

There have also been complaints about management practice and the council is accused of trying to gag Karen McKay, a care worker, who spoke out about problems. Now, the authority has

decided to hold what is described as a fundamental review of social services which will be subjected to external scrutiny. A separate inquiry panel,

chaired by a lawyer, will look into the allegations about management practice, but will not investigate abuse claims surrounding the now closed In Vale home. Detectives are

ing to trace more than 400 m mer residents and staff the The suspension of the that senior officers concerned agement practices and was use connected with claims of a con-

The authority has also de vised an 11-point strategi which includes the introduct of a child care action team to look at children at risk from prostitution, drugs and will crimes. A spokesman for Vole es From Care, which look after the interest of children care, said: "We welcome detightening up of rules, but would point nut that significan oumbers of young people have faced injustices and in some es the damage is irreparable.



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Mass walk-out brings universities to a halt

Barrie Clement Labour Editor

Around 100,000 employees staged a 24-hour pay strike which almost brought British universities to a standstill yesterday as tough new proposals to curb industrial action were published by the Govern-

Yesterday's action involved more workers - from professors to porters - than any other stoppage since the miners' strike. Despite the weather, uoioo members staged rallies, marches and demonstrations at universities as far apart as Swansea and Aberdeen. The eight unions involved said that few members crossed picket

The protest, at wage offers of 2.5 per cent for manual workers and 1.5 per cent for the rest, is expected to continue with disruptive action stopping short

of yesterday's strike. Uoder the Green Paper, most of the university employees who walked out would have beeo involved in unlawful action. The document says that stoppages should only be legit-imate if more than half of eligible union members vote for strikes - rather than a majority of those who return voting forms. Only 38 per cent of members of Unison, the public services union, voted in the strike ballot.

It is also doubtful whether a stoppage at Scotrail on 9 December, announced yesterday by train drivers' unioo Aslef, would be lawful under the Greeo Paper. The union would possibly have to ensure that scepticism towards the plans,

Introducing the Green Paper yesterday, Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, said it was not his responsibility to draw a line between what would infringe the proposed law and what would not. That would be decided by the courts.

In broad terms, any industrial action which risked life, health and safety or posed a threat to national security would be incloded. Strikes which dam-

incloded. Strikes which damaged property or the economy would also be unlawful.

A potential catch-all phrase, however, is that any action which caused "significant disruption of everyday life or activities in the whole or part of the country" would be considered illegal.

Mr Lang said ministers would allow three months for consultation over the Green

consultatioo over the Green Paper and acknowledged that any legislation might well depend on a Conservative victory at the general election.

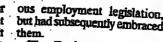
Other proposals in the Green Paper mean that unions would have to give 14 days notice of action rather than the present seven days; that they would have to hold fresh ballots every two or three months during industrial action, or after an unspecified number of short-

duratioo stoppages.

Mr Lang said his proposals
were "reasoned, considered"
and relevant to the spate of public service strikes during the summer. Courts would soon decide where the boundaries lay. "It is the kind of decisioo they reach regularly in civil areas,"he

Asked about employers' some services ran where there was oo alternative transport.

be said that companies had expressed doubts about previ-



The Engineering Employ ers' Federation and the Institute of Directors declared that existing laws had already struck the right balance between both sides of industry and companies were not clamouring for

The organisations warned that the wording of the Green Paper was confused and vagne. The CBI added that its mem-bers doubted if the plans were workable. Under the proposals, aggrieved employers - together with other businesses and members of the public affected by industrial action - could seek injunctions and if necessary sue unions for ordering strikes which had a "disproportionate or excessive" impact.

John Monks, general secre-tary of the TUC, said Mr Lang was "electioneering". "If these proposals were ever implemented, there would be a fundamental shift in power to bad employers and industrial dis-putes would be harder to resolve," he argued.

Leading article, page 19

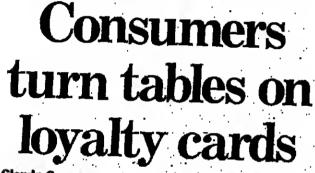


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THE BIG NETWORK.



growth in loyalty cards, with 20 million supermarket cards issued in the last 18 months berewarded for their patronage."

For every £3,000 spent cus-

hall Motors company, says that every £100 spent varies considthis is due to the changing eco-comic and social climate with suppliers realising they must of fer tangible rewards to tempt the "footloose" customer to remain loyal.

Research among more than 700 consumers found that loyal shoppers tend to spend twice as much as freewheeling shoppers at their first-choice store. This is particularly true wheo it comes to grocery shopping where loyal shoppers spend up to four times as much. But the report's author, Pro-

fessor Steve Worthingtoo, of Staffordshire University, found that increasing competitioo from supermarkets, petrol stations and airlines as well as traditional debit and credit cards has led customers to be more discerning about the programmes offered.

Customers are actively looking for the best loyalty scheme to join," Professor Worthington said. They are no longer passive recipients of schemes bolted

onto other profits ... Rather, Shopping has been changed for ever by the "astounding" customers are now becoming more aware of their individual "value" to the competing suppliers of prices of seasons.

According to new research more than half of all credit cards of rewards ranging from a free issued oow include some kind of loyalty programme, which has become the main weapon in the battle for customers.

The Loyalty Report, commissioned by GM Card, a Vaux-hall Motors company save that

erably, from £4 at Bradford & Bingley to 20-25p on the TSB Trustcard. Most cards have a real rate of return on money speot of around 1 per cent al-though it can vary from 0.25 to 4 per cent. The three supermarket group loyalty cards -Tesco, Safeway and Sainsbury – all offer £300 off a grocery bill for every £3,000 spend.

The future of such pro-grammes, Professor Worthingtoo concludes, is the development of alliances between different kinds of companies. Shell "Smart" points can already be redeemed at John Menzies or converted into air miles and Tesco Clubcard points can be collected at B&Q stores.

However, the professor warns companies against complacency. A loyalty programme, oo matter how attractive, is "not a panacea for a poorly run organisation", he said. "Coosumers will no looger tolerate organisations which fail to respond to their needs."

DAILY POEM

Present Discontents

by Edmund Blunden

Seeking no more The auguries of to-morrow's peace or war, I can think only of to-day in terms That no 'great journal' ridicules or confirms.

This sky and earth In my impression certainly seem worth Some hours of my concern, and maybe yours; Rooks, peewits, herons I consult to-day, If I can find them in the glades and moors, And if they have some truths to flash my way.

Should they say no, 1 do not doubt some coral-berried tree, Slenderest and finest she where many grow, Will well contrive to catch me suddenly.

And mark that tower High on the ridge, cool-lighted and austere; As if I oever before imagined power, His quiet domination fills me here, While long, long centuries throng my tiny hour, And the lark cries to the sun - in this or any year.

The centenary of Edmund Blunden's birth on 1 November was marked this year by a small ceremony in Poets' Corner, Westmarked this year by a small ceremony in Poets' Corner, Westminster Abbey, Blunden wrote more war verse than any other
poet of the First World War, but, unlike Siegfried Sassoon,
for example, he continued as a poet until his death in 1974.
Still, he wrote: "My experiences in the First World War have
haunted me all my life, and [I have] it seemed, lived in that
world rather than this." Duckworth has recently published Overtones of War, a volume of selected poems by Bhunden from
1914-1968, edited and introduced by Martin Taylor.

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The women in the House reveal their secret agenda

There are not many inhabitants of Westminster who remind one of famous movie stars. And Elizabeth Peacock is no exception. The blonde Tory memher for Batley and Spen is best known for having advocated the televised flogging of miscreants - the punishment to be meted out as part of the National Lottery programme (the idea foundered when Anthea Turner's agent demanded a cut



AARONOVITCH

time - just as the chamber was filling up for Prime Minister's ments of environment question called upon Elizabeth Taylor to and coloured (a hit like a very

ask her supplementary on open-cast mining in the Batley area. In fact she called her twice, before realising that Ms Taylor was not available, and that Ms Peacock would have to suffice.

By the time she corrected her here with us this afternoon. Is mistake, it was too late. Most of the minister aware ..." us in the gallery - and a lot of MPs too - had begun to wonder what Liz would have asked and how. Clad in a gigantic fur, her eyes kohled, her jewellery Questions - Speaker Betty (ob- dripping from ear and finger, But during the dying mo- viously in a pleasant reverie) her every surface manicured

would she have arisen and said "Thank you Madam Speaker on my behalf and on behalf of my very good friend, Michael Jackson, who wanted so much to be

And what other unexpected superstars of the silver screen also lurk heneath the quotidian exteriors of those on the green benches, in Betty's imagination? Clint Howard? Errol Heseltine (dig those tights)?

Soon we were all caught up in one of those fractious and charmless occasions which will punctuate the period between now and the blessed relief of the election. As is customary, it began with a Tory saying that un-employment was less than zero in her constituency, but would shoot up to Great Depression levels within minutes of a

Labour victory. When Tony Blair stood up it was pretty obvious to everyone that he would seek to make It was the last laugh we had. capital out of the previous night's This completely threw the PM.

gun vote, contrasting government pusillanimity with his own iron resolve. So, just below me, Mr Major had his line well prepared. complete with quotes and cuttings he had probably practised with in front of the mirror.

But Tony Blair had - in the words of Black Adder's Baldrick - a "cunning plan". He asked a question that no one was execting at all, concerning the failure (despite an obscure promise some two years ago) to get rid of mixed wards in hospitals.

"We seek to make progress", he floundered, before recovering himself enough to plunder the large supply of spare National Health Service statistics that he keeps in a corner of his head,

Yanargh," yelled the Toby Belch-like figure of George Foulkes from the back of the Labour benches at the Prime Minister, "Granargh," bellewed the death's-head features of Tory David Shaw at Mr Blair. "Order!" shouted Speaker Betty at all of them.

But why (apart from wrong-

footing the PMI had Tony picked this issue. The answer emerged only with the last question of the session when Margaret Hodge was called as Was the PM aware how man ing his answer to her leader would have been to millions of women forced to endure the

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LEADER

dangly hits of pyjamaed chapsin mixed wards. Aha! Women! The gender gap! All became clear. And there are still lol shopping days till the election. No wonder Betty was dreaming of Liz.

Compiled by Ben Summers

Ministers being sneaky over euro, say MPs

JOHN RENTOUL and DIANE

The Government faces a backbench uprising today as preparations for the European single currency exposed the divisions in both Conservative and Labour parties.

Tory MPs are furious at what they see as the Government "sneaking through" plans they fear would lie the pound to the euro even if Britain stays out of monetary union, And Gordon Brown, the shadow chancellor. came under pressure from the Trades Union Congress to adopt a more positive approach to the single currency.

John Redwood, last year's Tory leadership challenger, said EU plans for "reinforced convergênce procedures" to be imposed on countries which do not adopt the euro would mean Britain could lose its opt-out from the discipline of the sin-

Documents to be vetted by MPs in a committee session this morning include plans to increase pressures on non-joiners to bring their economies into line with euro countries, including a new exchange-rate mechanism, and a stability pact, to impose large fines on countries which join the euro and fail to keep to budget limits. In the documents, Kenneth

fends convergence rules, and says that whether or not Britain converts to the euro. "policies aimed towards convergence ~ low inflation and sound public finances - are sound in their own right".

John Monks, general secretary of the TUC, said whichever party wins the election will face a choice between joining the first wave of European Monetary Union from 1 January 1999 or seeing Britain isolated in Europe.

The wait-and-see option, reaffirmed by Mr Brown in his speech to the City last night, carries the risk that the UK would find it hard to join later on satisfactory terms, Mr Monks argued. Britain's negative approach had already "poisoned the water" for any new prime minister,

Mr Brown confirmed Labour would hold a referendum if it decided to join "in the course of the next parliament", hut Mr Monks warned that it should not be used as an excuse to delay entry.

Today the Government relegates the most important issue facing the country to an obscure standing committee of mostly obscure MPs. Instead of Mr Clarke facing Mr Brown across the despatch box in the Chamber to discuss EU plans for the know what we're doing."

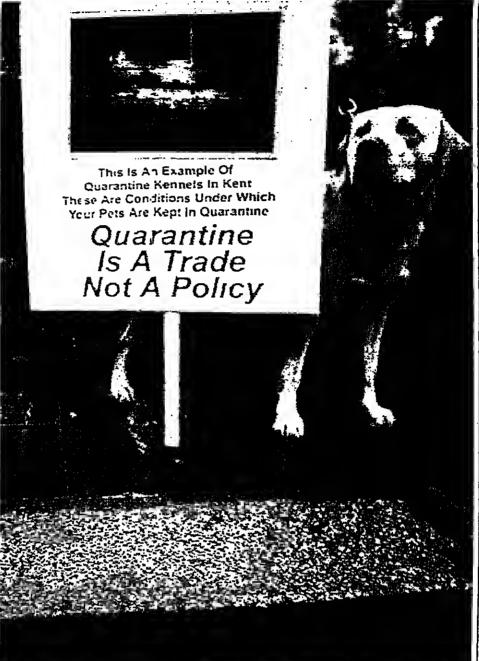
Clarke, the Chancellor, de- euro, Phillip Oppenheim, the most junior Treasury minister, faces Mike O'Brien, Mr Brown's number four, in a committee room upstairs.

The Government was condemned by 144 hack-hench MPs, including 94 Tories, for refusing to debate the plans on the floor of the House.

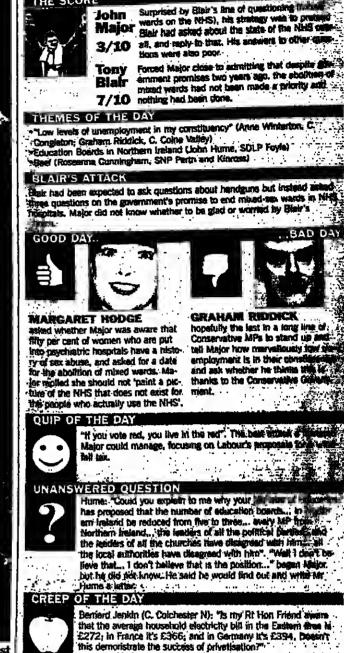
A motion hy Jimmy Hood, Labour chairman of the all-party European Legislation committee, said the plans "raise questions of legal and political importance" and should he dehated by the whole House, As well most of the Tory Euro-sceptic "usual suspects", the motion was also signed by pro-Euro-peans Hugh Dykes, Sir David Knox, Peter Bottomley and Sir Terence Higgins.

Mr Dykes said: "The essence of the ministerial posture is to say, 'Don't let's discuss it, it's too awkward, let's push it to one side'. It is the most important subject facing the nation. I believe the public will get increasingly in favour of it as they discuss it.

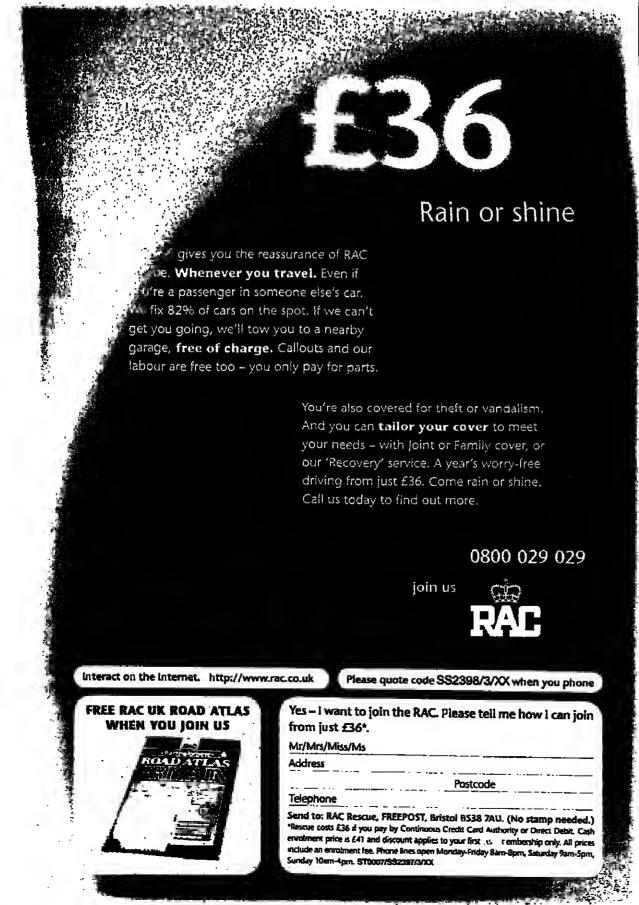
And David Heathcoat-Amory, the former Treasury minister, said: These regulations will set up a massive transfer of powers away from the House of Commons and I want that properly debated, properly voted on, so that everyone can

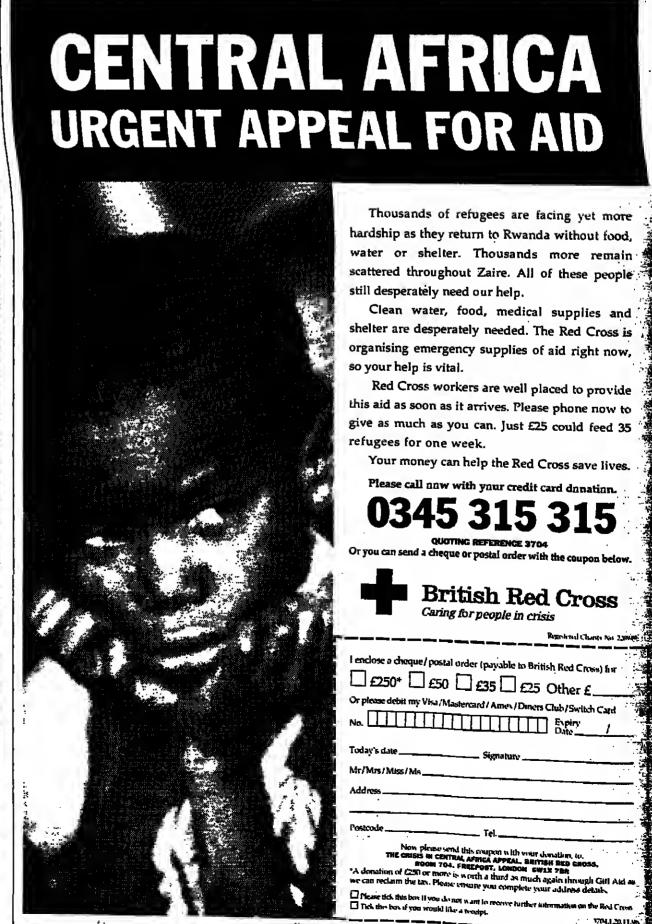


Best friends: Passports for Pets campaigners lobbying Parliament yesterday against quarantine rules which they say allow cruelty in kennels Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid



PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTIONS





international

West backs off from sending Zaire force

and Christopher Bellamy

The British and US governments yesterday changed their minds about sending ground forces to Zaire, throwing the size, scope – and even the existence – of the proposed, international relief force into confu-

The Secretary of State for Defence, Michael Portillo, said British plans were "on hold". The US government said that it was ready to help with transport, logistics, food, medicine and cash, hut not ground troops. Other countries - notably France - are still prepared to go ahead but some hurried re-thinking of international plans will be necessary when the contributing countries meet in Stuttgart tomorrow.

Since the remnants of the genocidal Hutu army fied into the Zaire-an bush on Friday, over 500,000 Hutu refugees have abandoned their camps in eastern Zaire and plodded hack towards their homes in Rwanda. The exodus has removed the most rebels. The comments by Aldo Ajel-

obvious reason for the deployment lo, the EU representative in Kin-of an international force: the creation shasa, will kindle suspicion that the have already taken place and, it is of "safe" corridors to encourage Hutu civilians to break with the murderous former soldiers and return

Aid agencies, led by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UN-HCR), pointed out yesterday that up to 700,000 other Hutu refugees remained in Zaire, some in the southern camps around Bukavu cut off by Zairean rebels, others scattered in

the vast forests to the west.

They said that an international force was still needed to locate and succour them. The French President, Jacques Chirac, also said that a multinational force was needed to provide security for "airfields and food convoys."

A senior EU official caused even

greater confusion by suggesting that the mandate of the international force should be changed to help the Zairean government regain control of the eastern part of the country from the triumphant, mainly Intsi

real objective of some Western governments (notably the French) is to shore-up the collapsing Zairean

Mr Portillo said he could not authorise the proposed deployment of 1,500 to 3,500 British troops in the current "information vacuum", with vast numbers of refugees moving be-neath the forest canopy. An RAF Canberra reconnaissance plane is be-ing sent which can get below the cloud which has blinded US U-2 spy planes and satellites.

Speaking in Moscow, where he is on a 2-day visit, Mr Portillo said: "We don't have evidence from the south and therefore we must prudently as-sume that between half a million and one millioo refugees are unac-Therefore I have decided to do

two things," he said. "A Canberra P9 reconnaissance plane will be sent and Britain will also work with the governments in the area to initiate an

hoped, to stimulate others to separate themselves from the local mili-

ties and go home."
The Rwandan government insisted yesterday that the back of the hu-manitarian crisis was broken. All that was now needed was for the world to supply immense quantities of aid to the returning refugees in Rwanda itself. The foreign minister, Anas-tase Gasana declared that there were no more Rwandan civilians in eastern Zaire "with the exception of a few stragglers."
The UNHCR insisted, however,

that there were 500,000 Hutus in the Bukavu regioo alooe, prevented from returning home by the presence of Zairean Total rebel forces between them and the Rwandan border. Rebel leaders admitted that this was the case - implicitly contradicting their allies in the Rwandan government - and offered to open up a safe corridor for the Bukavu refugees today. If this happens, and another

dislodged, the case for an interna- which had agreed to lead the force, aptional, military force will appear

Officials and senior military officers from the nations offering to join a pro-posed force of 10,000-12,000 troops will

meet in Stuttgart tomorrow to decide

peared to be having doubts yesterday, at least about the scale of the operation. The Defence Minister. Doug Young, said in Ottawa that, if conditions continued to improve, the force might be reduced to a number of hu-

results hoped for, and people can return to their home countries, and bumanitarian organisations can do their work without being in danger, then the mission becomes unnecessary." Mr Young said. "No one wants to go to Zaire or Rwanda for Christmas

US votes alone to see off Boutros-Ghali

David Usborne New York

Exactly as promised, the United States did the deed at the United Nations yesterday, casting a lone and defiant vote against a proposal to grant a second term to Boutros Boutros-Ghali as Secretary General, taking no heed of the majority that supported him and instantly throwing the organisation into crisis.

The American veto was delivered in a secret ballot of the Security Council by US Am-bassador Madeleine Albright, on a resolution backing Mr. Boutros-Ghali sponsored by ten of the fifteen members, in-

cluding France and Germany. Not a single state offered the US the slightest solace either by voting with it or even ducking

Course to Person

from the fight by abstaining.
The UN headquarters was left positively vibrating with private and not-so-private expressions of indignation at the widely perceived arrogance of the US in the affair as well as anguished speculation as to what should happen next.

The position of Africa is now critical. By convention, Africans have the right to expect that someone from the continent holds the post of Secretary General for the next five-year

For now, the Boutros-Ghali camp is taking heart from the 14-to-one vote and the Secretary General himself has given no sign that he will quickly withdraw from the race.

But as America is within its right to use its veto as a permanent Council member whatever the diplomatic costs to it may be - his chances of surviving beyond the conclusion of his first term on 31 December, have to be slim at best.

Sylvana Foa, the UN spokeswoman, spoke for many when she suggested that the US, which is fond of presenting itself as the champion of world democracy, seemed in this instance to have willfully ignored that principle.

Clearly, this is not a demo-



Boutros-Ghali: The veto of his second term as Secretary-General of the UN has thrown the organisation into chaos

porters. One African ambassador was heard to mumur. "In a football game when the result first instance, on Africans. is fourteen goals to one, it is not usually the side that scored one that is declared the winner".

Members of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) went into an immediate huddle yesterday to consider whether to stand by its endorsement, made in the summer, of Mr Boutros-Ghali or whether to abandon him in the face of America's intransigence and put submit new African names for considera-

A decision from the OAU cratic process," she told re- should come within days. The

Council has agreed that any discussions of alternative candidates will focus, at least in the

For Washington, there can be scant glory in the predicament it has created for itself and for the organisation as a whole.
It is hard not to conclude that from the start of the affair America's strategy has been

policy weakness. Ever since June, moreover, it has been caught in the classic trap of not wanting to appear even more feeble by backing down, either by supporting the Egyptian for a second term or

one born of ingrained foreign

agreeing to a compromise oneor two-year extension of his

The US frailty has been evident in the argument presented by the White House to justify its treatment of Mr Boutros-Ghali - that only by ditching him can it begin to start prevailing on the US Congress to change its attitude towards the UN and, hopefully, then release the \$1.4 billion in backdnes that it owes to the

organisation.
It has also been glaringly demonstrated in the astonishing failure of the US, the world's last remaining super-power, to rally even its allies to its point of view in time for the vote yesterday. The risk for the UN now is

that the squabbling, rather than being resolved by yesterday's events, will only intensify over the coming weeks. The most damaging thing

for the UN is not having a clear idea who is leading it," remarked Sir John Weston, the British Ambassador. We must no move forward

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as quickly as possible to resolve the leadership issue". In the most extreme scenario. the Council could remain deadlocked even into late December, if Mr Boutros-Ghali insists on remaining a candidate and if any of the permanent members decide to continue backing him and exercising their

own vetoes to block any alternatives that may surface. In that case, the events of 1954, when Norway's Trygve Lie was reappointed by the General Assembly in defiance of a Soviet veto in the Council, could

repeat itself. Such an outcome could drive the final nail in the coffin of American distrust of the UN and plunge the organisation into terminal constitutional cri-

The path could be cleared. however, by a decision by the OAU to abandon Mr Boutros-Ghali. At that moment, which could come any day this week, his prospects would surely be hopeless and a list of new oames would come forward.

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international

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Nato poses no threat,' says Russia

Nato no longer poses a threat to Russia, the Russian defence minister Igor Rodionov said last night.

General Rodiocov was speaking after a meeting in Moscow with Michael Portillo, the British Secretary of State for Defence. Russian military leaders have repeatedly raised concerns about Nato's planned eastward expansion to embrace the new democracies of Eastern

Europe.
Mr Portillo will loday
address the Russian general
staff academy and is
expected to make further proposals for military cooperation between Russia and the Western alliance. Christopher Bellamy - Moscov

Hijacker jailed for 1977 attack

Suhaila Andrawes, the only Palestinian terrorist to have survived the hijacking of a Lufthansa plane to Mogadishu in 1977, was jailed for 12 years yesterday

by a Hamhurg court.

Andrawes, aged 42, had been convicted in Somalia and sentenced to 20 years in jail, but was released after a year. She was discovered living in Norway and was extradited to Germany in 1995. The three other hijackers were shot dead when special German forces stormed the plane. Imre Karacs - Bonn

Mayor to be Romania PM

The popular mayor of Bucharest was designated as Romania's future prime minister yesterday, two days after the reformist Emil Constantinescu won presidential elections,

ousting former Communists. Officials of the Peasant Party (PNTCD), the largest party in a new parliament, said party leaders had chosen Victor Ciorbea to head the country's first coalition government not led Johannesburg where the by ex-Communists. Reuter - AWB has its headquarters. by ex-Communists. Reuter – Bucharest

rest in peace to throne

Disciples of Rabbi Nahman of Bratslav, a Jewish sage buried in Ukraine, tried for three nights last week to tunnel to his grave in the town of Uman and smuggle his bones to Israel, the Ma'ariv daily reported. Reuter - Jerusalem

Turks to block use of Nato equipment

The Turkish Foreign Minister, Tansu Ciller, said vesterday that her country would block the use of Nato equipment by the Western European Union (WEU) because of Greek objections to Ankara's participation in

WEU actions.
"Turkey will block all the support of Nato," she told reporters. "The WEU can do nothing without the support of Nato." According to a Turkish journalist, Ms Ciller said that Greece did not want Turkey, an associate member of the WEU, to participate in WEU activities such as peace-keeping and humanitarian aid. Reuter -

Zambia set to re-elect leader

President Frederick Chiluba and his ruling party appeared headed for sweeping victory in Zamhian national elections boycotted by the former President Kenneth Kaunda's main

nppositing group.
With results in from 58 of the 150 constituencies countrywide by 5pm vesterday, the ruling Movement for Multiparty Democracy had won 52 parliament seats, election officials said. AP - Lusaka

Neo-Nazi on trial in SA

The leader of a neo-Nazi white-extremist group went on trial yesterday oo an attempted murder charge involving an assault on a hlack man on 25 March.

Eugene TerreBlanche, head of the Afrikaner Resistance Movement, known by its Afrikaanslanguage initials AWB, pleaded not guilty to the attempted murder count and to a separate charge of assault with intent to commit grievous bodily harm to the man in Veotersdorp, a farming town west of

Rabbi's bones King clings

Cambodia's King Norodom Sihanouk denied he plans to abdicate and eoter politics, saying he would remain on the throne until the turn of the century. The 74-year-old king is in China, where he is receiving medical treatment. Reuter - Phnom Penh

Oxfam **Continuing crisis** in Central Africa

The return of refugees from Zaire is one of the greatest movements of people the world has ever seen. Oxfam is providing water for the hundreds of thousands on the road home. An uncertain future awaits them.

Worse news is that hundreds of thousands of Zaireans and Rwandans are still unaccounted for in Zaire. They are without clean water and at risk from disease. Cholera has already claimed lives.

The situation changes by the hour, but Oxfam is ready to help these people. Your donation will help to provide the first wave of emergency aid - clean water, sanitation and shelter. You can help to save lives.

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All in the line of duty for Germany's Bond



Werner Mauss: Regarded as hero in the Fatherland Bonn

Germany's top secret agent, who went missing several years ago, has been found in a Colombian jail, arrested in Medellin on Sunday night as he was trying to smuggle the kidnapped wife of a German executive out

Werner Mauss, a privatised James Bond licensed to mingle with terrorists and pay them off, was travelling in the company of a bogus wife under one of his numerous aliases. The "couple" had six forged passports be-tween them, a .38 calibre Smith & Wesson revolver, and three gold credit cards issued by the

According to Colombian po-lice, Mr Mauss had paid \$1.8m

former local manager of BASF, a large German chemicals concern with extensive interests in Medellin. She had been abducted three months earlier by guerrillas of the pro-Cuba Na-

tional Liberation Army (ELN). Mr Mauss was identified with the help of the distinguishing mark listed in his Interpol files: a missing thumb tip. The Colombian press also reported that he was carrying a letter issued by the German embassy in Bogota certifying that the "couple" had lost their passports and were on official business.

What this might have been, however, remains a mystery. The payment of ransom money is illegal in Colombia, but Mr Mauss could have still engi-

complication of chartering a plane and fleeing abroad. "I myself wondered why I was given a false passport and was to fly to Venezuela," Ms Schöne said after being freed.

Breaking the law, has never stopped Mr Mauss, 56, who isdescribed by the former head of Germanu's Endered.

Germany's Federal Criminal Office as "our secret weapon". He does not like to use his real name and is on the run from several convictions. Last year, a Belgian court sentenced him

to jail in abstentia for trying to bribe the country's police chief.

He may be a rogue, but he is handsomely rewarded for his actions and hailed as a hero in the Fatherland. His position is that of a "V-Man" - a freelance

dollars (£1m) in ransom for neered the kidnap victim's re-Brigitte Schöne, the wife of the lease locally, avoiding the extra or large companies to carry out missions that are off-limits to the state. His name does not appear on the staff list of the BND, the German secret service, but official payments have been traced to his bank account.

Mr Mauss, who runs his business out of a fortified villa in Germany's Hunsrück region and flies a private jet, first found the limelight in 1976. He had been "sponsored" by three companies and the government

the latter to the tune of
DM250,000 (£100,000) - to hunt down Rolf Pohle, an urban terrorist. Mr Mauss found his man in Athens, promptly ar-rested him, but Germany never succeeded in having their suspect extradited. Mr Pohle still lives in Greece, eking out

a meagre existence by giving German lessons.

More successful was his mission, in 1976, to recover treasures stolen from Cologne Cathedral. His triumph led to more commissions, and then to

the lucrative kidnap market. In recent years, he has been linked to even more unorthodox activities, and his name surfaces in the biggest unsolved puzzle of the past decade. In October 1987, Uwe Barschel, a prominent Christian Democrat leader in the centre of a murky political scandal, was found murdered in a bath tub in a Geneva hotel room. Very little is known about the affair, except that Mr Mauss was in Geneva that day and met Mr Barschei. That was the last time anyone saw Mr Barschel alive.

Sex row menaces Belgian coalition

Sarah Helm

The Belgian parliament yesterday launched a commission of inquiry into claims that a Deputy Prime Minister, Elio di Rupo, had sex with young boys. The latest paedophile scan-

dal poses a serious threat to the coalition government of Jean-Luc Dehaene, still reeling from the Marc Dutroux child-sex murders, which brought claims of government incompetence

and cover-up.

Political figures predicted yesterday that Mr di Rupo, who is also Minister for

who is also Minister for Telecommunications, may be forced to resign, destabilising the centre-left coalition.

After days of rumour-mongering in the Flemish press, the Belgian authorities confirmed that police were investigating allegations of paedophilia against Mr di Rumo, a Francophora Se Mr di Rupo, a Francophone Socialist of Italian descent, and against Jean Pierre Grafe, a mmister in the Franco gional government.

The allegations are not connected with the Dutroux atrocities, which involved the killing of at least four young girls and abuse of many more. Mr di Rupo and Mr Grafe,

who are openly homosexual, ve-hemently deny the accusations, saying they are pleased in-quiries are being launched to clear their names. Mr Dehaene described the

allegations as "sick and mad", according to one press report. Several commentators have warned against an anti-gay witch-hunt, saying there is no evidence that the men engaged in sex with partners other than

oconsenting adults.

Nevertheless, the evidence against the two politicians has emerged as a direct result of the increased surveillance of public figures which followed public accusations that the Dutroux case was covered up in high

Reports yesterday suggest-ed the evidence against the men had been presented by callers to a paedophile "hotline" set up in in the wake nf the Dutroux case in an attempt

to gather more evidence against those abusing children

In the public mind, the latest allegations are certain to confirm some of the widespread fears that corruption runs deep into the Belgian judicial and po-litical system. Last month more than 250,000 people marched that the authorities account for their failure to avert the horrors

perpetrated by Dutroux.
Public anger at the Belgian
political class has also been fuelled by revelations about a se-

It is unjust and base to take against citizens solely because of their sexual preferences'

ries of unsolved corruption scandals, and, in particular, the murder of André Cools, the ?deputy prime minister, shot dead in Liège in 1991. Claims of a cover-up in the

Cools case threw oew light on the murky underworld of Liege, in Francophone Belgium, where the Dutroux gang was also known to operate. Liège, with a large Italian population, is an outpost of Italian Maña gangs.

The Cools inquiry has led to three high-level political resignations of Francophone Socialists since September. Both the Dutroux case and the Cools case have exposed the invidious nature of political patronage in Belgium throughout police forces and the judiciary.

Several commentators were yesterday urging Belgium to resist letting grief and auger pro-voke a witch-hunt mentality. The accusations against Mr di Rupo and Mr Grafe were as yet unsubstantiated and may be the result of paranoia and political smears.

There were suggestions in the that extremist Flemish groups



Eye of the storm: Deputy Prime Minister Elio di Rupo, who admits being homosexual but denies unsubstantiated reports of paedophilia

may be exploiting recent public disquiet to bring down the government by attacking Francophone politicians. The Flem-Mr di Rupo liked to frequent

gay hars in Brussels. "We believe it is particularly unjust and hase to take against citizens solely because of their sexual preferences," said Michel Marteau in a commentary in Le Soir.

"In Belgium, as in nearly all

a crime ... Let's wait for justice to do its work."

In an effort to contain the latest upsurge of public anger, the ish papers yesterday were Belgian parliament moved unrestrained in detailing how swiftly to launch a commission of inquiry, which will make a commendation on whether Mr di Rupo's immunity from prosecution should be lifted. The Deputy Prime Minister could then face charges before the courts. Regional parliaments were also meeting to consider a committee of inquiry countries, homosexuality is not into the case of Mr Grafe.

The scandal, however, looks certain to escalate. While the seriousness of the latest allega-tions has yet to be tested, the ferment they have already caused reveals how vulnerable the country's political establishment has become since the Dutroux affair first erupted. The Belgian press appear hent on exposing any allegations, however tenuous, against public figures, having taken their cue from the recent mass demonstrations of anger by the

Belgian people.

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Bosnians remove minister to get US arms

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Sarajevo (Reuter) — Kresimir Zubak, the President of Bosnia's Muslim-Croat Federation, has finally agreed to re-placement of the federation's deputy defence minister, clearing the way for a massive ship-ment of US arms to the former Yugoslav republic, a US official

said yesterday.
"Zubak informed the United States that he will sign the official order replacing deputy minister Hasan Cengic effective on Wednesday," said a State Department official speaking in

Sarajevo.
The United States earlier refused to unload \$100m worth of military equipment bound for the federation army unless and until Mr Cengic, a Muslim, was removed from office because of

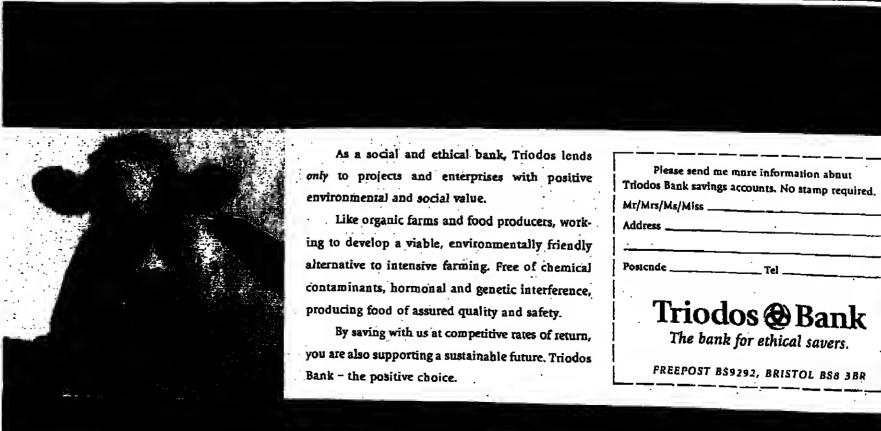
his close ties with Iran. The American Condor transport ship has been idling in the Adriauc Ocean for weeks, laden with tanks, helicopters, assault rifles, machineguns, ammunition, tactical radios and other military equipment. A US special envoy James Pardew said the mater-ial could begin off-loading in the Croating port of Ploce today, now the Cengic impasse has been resolved.

The federation's ethnic on Monday, after Cengic's al-lies in the Bosnian Muslim SDA party made it clear that they would only let him go if his Bosnian Croat counterpart resigned at the same time.

The game of threats and hlackmail underlined the tension and suspicion bedevilling relations between the two ethnic communities in the federation, which was cobbled together largely under external, US pressure, in order to act as. a counterweight to the wellarmed, virtually independent

Bosnian Serb entity. Sarajevo (AP) - A Bosnian Serb man damaged his home by accident when he tried to fire a grenade at his wife, UN officials said yesterday. The incident in the northwestern town of Bijeljina was the climar of a domestic dispute that

spilled out onto the street.
The woman tried to flee the house hut the husband for lowed her with a bazooka said U.N. spokesman Alexander Ivanko. "He fired the bazoolia at his wife, missed, and hit his house, causing serious damage." The man, Pero Tollic, and being held by police.



Teenagers face death for baby's murder

Rupert Cornwell Washington

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A few months ago, their life was an American picture postcard - high-school sweethearts from the affluent New Jersey suburbs, bound for university, without a visible care in the world. Now that world has collapsed. She is in prison and he is on the run, wanted for infanticide and facing the death penalty.

Yesterday, police were searching for Brian Peterson, 18, who is charged with killing the newborn son he helped deliver in a Delaware motel room last Tuesday. The mother, Amy Grossberg, is already in prison, accused of the first degree murder of the infant, whose battered body was found in a dusthin at the motel. Meanwhile, half the country wonders how such a tragedy could have happened.

For everyone who knew them, they were a perfect couple. He was a school sports star beginning his first year at a private university in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Ms Grossberg, also 18, was, according to neighbours, a "dream daughter", a hright student with talent as an artist, who had just entered the University of Delaware.

There was, however, one problem: she was pregnant and eight days ago went into labour. As police reconstruct the story, Mr Peterson made the

at her lodgings, and check in at a nearby motel. There, he helped deliver the baby, which he put in a plastic bag and dropped in a dumpster behind the motel. He then drove Ms Grossberg to her dormitory

and returned to Gettysburg. Mr Peterson has told investigators the baby was alive when it was abandoned. But on the strength of an autopsy which found the infant died of skull fractures caused by "blunt force trauma and shaking", prosecu-tors brought murder charges. The death penalty cao be sought in cases in Delaware where the killing is intentional and the victim is under 14.

Their decision has prompted outrage, and accusations that the state is rushing to judgment before the facts are in: This case is the result of children hav-ing children," said Murray Richman, president of New York State Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

But despite the almost nonexistent prospect of one ever being handed down, the Delaware deputy Attorney General, Peter Letang, seems determined to press ahead. "When a baby is out outside in cold weather, in addition to having head trauma," he said, "in our view that is intentional homicide." Along with horror and pity, the dominant reaction has been



was confessing to a university counsellor in Gettysburg.

press charges, police at the weekend issued a warrant for

Mr Peterson. When they went

After initially deciding not to

bafflement: Why, the press has the same time, her boyfriend asked, did the couple not seek help, offer the child for adoption or even arrange an abortion? No less of a mystery is how Ms Grossberg managed to carry her pregnancy to term, un-noticed by her family or friends.

The whole story might never have come to light had Ms Grossberg not developed postnatal complications. Back in her dormitory that same Tuesday evening, she collapsed and was rushed to hospital where she recounted what had happened. At

Dithering in Europe leaves Korea staring into nuclear abyss

Richard Lloyd Parry

The fragile peace on the Korean peninsula, the world's last Cold War flashpoint, is in jeopardy if European govern-ments fail to agree un a 15 mil-lion een (£11.5m) package to provide oil in the stricken government of Nurth Korea.

European Commission officials are engaged in delicate neg-otiations with the Korean Energy Development Organisation (Kedo), a joint American-Japanese-South Korean body formed after a scare in 1994. when Pyongyang appeared to be developing nuclear weapons. A funding crisis has left Kedo un the edge of collapse and it has asked the Europeans for a 15 million ecu annual contribution in return for membership

of the organisation.
But differences between European Union member states threaten to thwart the deal. And, without European money. Kedo officials fear it will fall apart, increasing the risk that Pyongyang will restart its nuclear programme and plunge the peninsula back into crisis.

Kedo represents the hest hope in decades for peace on the peninsula. The organisation was born as a consequence of the but by yesterday afternoon Mr Peterson still had not done so. Framework Agreement signed in Geneva in 1994, which temporarily defused fears of a

land where he was believed to

be staying, they found it emp-

ty. His lawyers are said to be

nuclear confrontation. In spring that year, American spy satellites revealed that the North Koreans were stockpiling spent fuel rods from Soviet-made nuclear reactors. These had the potential for generating plutonium capable of being used in nuclear warheads. After months of negmiations, North Korea agreed to freeze their operations.

Kedo was formed to fulfil the other side of the bargain: the provision of safer, light-water reactors costing \$5bn (£3bn), to be paid for by South Korea and Japan. The Geneva accord also promised heavy fuel oil to tide the North over while the safe reactors are being installed.

The annual cost of the fuel shipments is around \$55m, of which \$25m has been approved by the US. Britain and Japan have made lesser contributions. But without more substantial participation by Europe. Kedn has little hope of fulfilling its ohligations. And last week, Pyongrang's official news agency threatened a restart to nuclear development if there were delays to the Kedo programme.

Kedo's troubles come at a time of increasing instability in Korea, which has been divided between the Stalinist North and the US-backed South since the end of the Second World War. With the collapse of the Soviet bloc, Nurth Korea's economy plummeted. In 1995 the North for foreign aid, raising hopes of dialogue. But Pyongyang refuses to talk directly with anyone but the US - which insists that any settlement must be reached between the two Koreas. Hopes were pinned on a proposal for four-way talks, including the two Koreas, the US and China -but these were dashed in September when a North Korean submarine ran aground in the South, while engaged on an ap-parent spy mission. The outrage this provoked in Seoul has jeopardised the Geneva agreement.

We cannot keep the nuclear programme frozen any longer only to get heavy oil ... with no importance given to when the light-water reactors will be provided," Pyongyang's news agency said last week, accusing the US of "breaking its promise in "unilaterally" delaying the implementation of the agreement.

Pyongyang will today close its liaison office in the demilitarised zone between the two countries in protest.

'We're at a very dicey point. and the European contribution is very important to the whole thing," said one observer in Seoul yesterday, "It seems people have to be brought to the point where they're staring into the abyss before they make up their minds. We were close to the abyss in 1994, but people

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Candid cameras catch agent

Washington - The final piece of evidence against Harold James Nicholson came into focus for CIA spy catchers on November 12: Concealed cameras in his CIA office caught him kneeling under his desk photographing sécret documents.

Four days later, FBI agents, who had been trailing and eavesdropping on him for months, arrested Nieholson at Washington's Dulles Interna-tional Airport. He was charged on Monday with spying for Russia since June 1994.

CIA director John Deutch said the Nicholson case is not likely to be the last involving alleged spying by U.S. agents.
"There will be other cases that involve the CIA. There will be other cases that involve other national security agencies."
Nicholson, 46, of Burke, Virginia, is the highest-ranking
CIA officer to face espionage

charges. The FBI suspects he sold the names of all new CIA trainee agents in the past two years, a hreach of security that could jeopardize lives.

Among the evidence against Nicholson cited by the FBI was

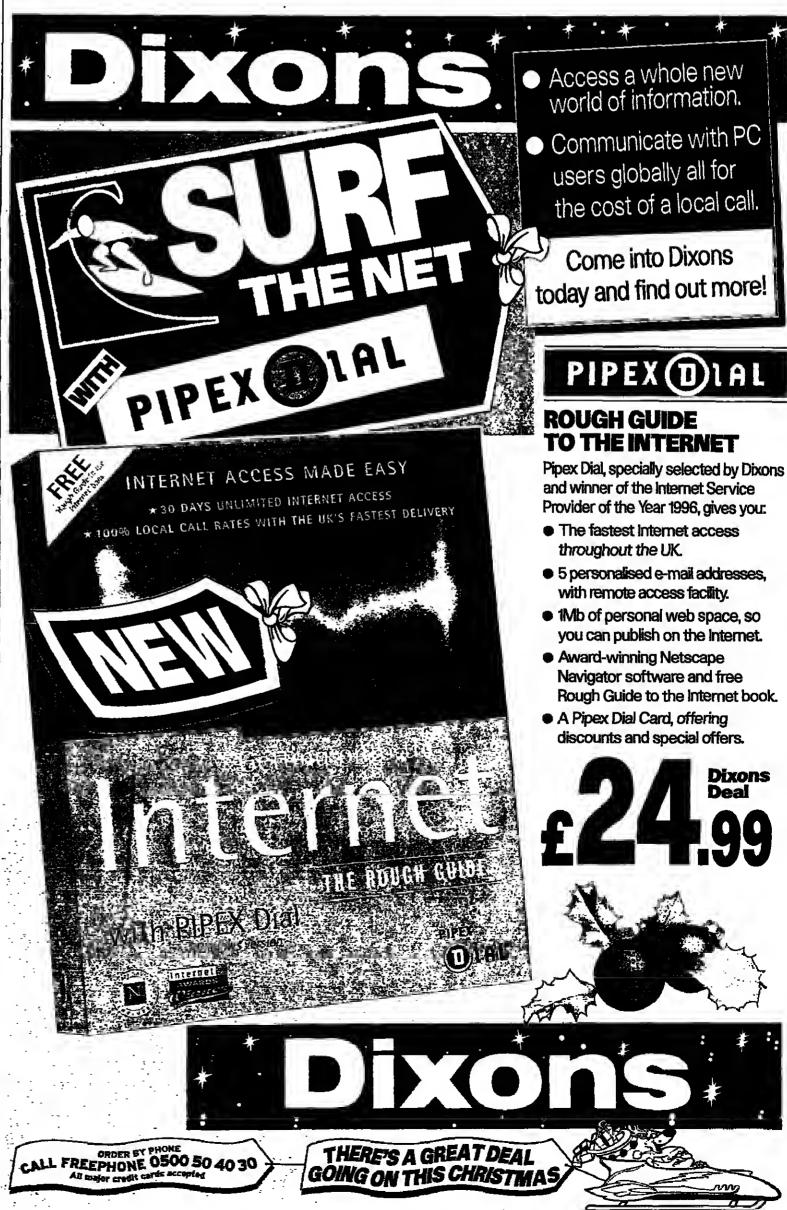
a computer disk containing a file with information on private individuals who uften provide the CIA with information they gain on their travels. Deutch would not explain precisely what alerted the CIA Nicholson. He said several

historics of evidence appeared at virtually the same time, including questionable answers on a routine lie-detector test in October 1995. The FBI said it detected a pattern of twice-yearly trips by Nicholson from 1994 to 1996 to Asia - where he allegedly met with his Russian

Early this month an FBI search of Nicholson's office at CIA headquarters in Langley. Virginia, found about 40 documents relating to Russia in a hlack folder on his desk. Some were classified "top secret," and some were at the higher "sensitive compartmented in-formation" classification.

On 12 November, Nicholson asked for and received a CIAissued document camera. He took it to his office, closed the door and placed the camera un-der his desk, according to the FBI affidavit.

He then took some secret documents from the folder, knelt on the floor and spent about 30 minutes photographing them. He did more that same evening and again on 13 November, the FBI said.



EU sounds alarm at Belarus showdown

Britain, France, Germany and Italy yesterday threw their weight behind growing condemnation of plans by President Alexander Lukashenko of Belarus to press ahead with a ref-erendum which would turn his nation into a near-dictatorship.

They protested at the "illegal nature" of the poll in which he is seeking a constitution which would give him autocratic powers, including the right to appoint judges, top election officials, and many members of a new, two-chamber legislature. The protest, following expressions of alarm from the US, came as Belarus lumbered towards a showdown between the President and parliament and which has sent tremors from the Baltic to the Black Sea.

MPs, fearing Mr Lukashenko's security forces may close it. have been occupying parliament, in the capital, Minsk, since Friday. The Prime Minis-ter, Mikhail Chigir, resigned in protest over the referendum.

Eighty MPs also signed a pe-tition for the President's impeachment. Under the coostitutioo (which Mr Lukashenko has a long record of ignoriog), this must he approved by the Constitutional Court before going hack to parliament, where it requires a two-thirds vote to pass.

While the West seethed, a more cautious expression of coocern was issued by Russia, the key player in efforts to re-solve the crisis. Moscow exerts great influence on the former Soviet republic, which depends on it for gas and oil. A Kremlin spokesman said President Boris Yeltsin and his Prime Minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, were "alarmed" and hoped "the art of political compromise will replace the ambitions and confrontations among politicians".

Officially, voting day is Sun-day, although the result is viewed as a foregone conclusion unless the poll is cancelled and a compromise is found. For there are signs aplenty that the President has little regard for fair play. He has fired the head of the Central Election Commission, Viktor Gonchar, who complained of irregularities

among thousands of absentee ballots already cast. For months Mr Lukashenko has excluded opponents from the heavily censored state-run media while using it to advertise his cause.

with parliament seems inevitable but the outcome is unclear. He has the loyalty of his 1,500-strong presidential guard but the position of Belarus's KGB and armed forces is less easily predicted. "There is po-teotial for this to blow up," a Western source said. "It would only take one spark to set every-

thing off." Last night parliament offered to abandon a second, parallel referendum which proposes the presidency be scrapped, if Mr Lukashenko dropped his. His response was unknown, but his posture to

date is not encouraging.

He recently said it was too late to change his plans, and told opponents to be ready to flee if he won. His style has woo him unfavourable publicity in the West, particularly when he complimented Hitler during a media interview.

Poland, Ukraine and the Baltic states have all shown signs of unease about their trouhlesome oeighbour. Nor are matters helped by

the fact that Belarus still has 18 former Soviet SS-25 inter-continental missiles, which it is due - under international arms agreements - to return to Russia soon, but which it may



Flagging support: A couple outside parliament in Minsk backing the MPs' stand

Photograph: AFI



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of the Soviet Union. Once spoke admiringly of E Population: 10.3m, of whom 78 per cent are

Belartsan, and 13 per cent Russian. Minsk, the dream Soviet style capital, has 1.6m residents. Location: bordered by Ukraine to the south, Poland to the west. Russia to the east and Difficial and Latvie to the north.

Quick guide to Belarus

President: Alexander Lukashenko, 42, former

1994, in a wave of rural nostalgia for the return

collective farm director who was elected July

The 1,500 strong Presidential Chard is received to their poss. There is a method of the KCB and a dispreportionalist large whiteay of 82,000.

■ Weapons, include 18 former Soviet SS-25 Intercontinental Ballistic missiles, which Belarus is due to return to Russia. It has 349 combat aircraft and 2,348 battle tanks.

National Anthem: the former Soviet one. without the words. History's low point; loss of 25 per cent of the population in the Nazi invasion during the Second World War.

Economy: Grim. Heavy engineering hard-hit in particular by the post-Soviet slump. Depends on Russia for subsidised gas and oil.

Religion: the Orthodox Church is largest church, followed by Roman Catholic.

History's high point: declaring independence on 25 August 1991 and helping bring about the end of the Soviet Union.



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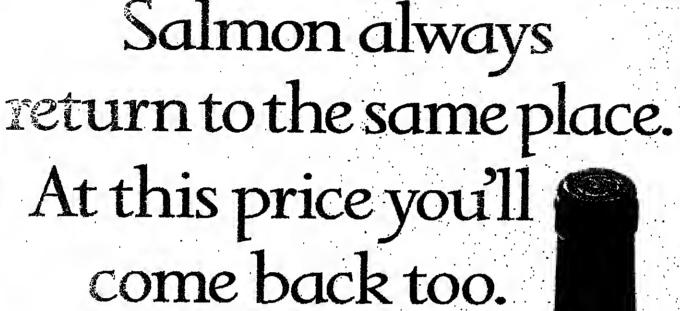


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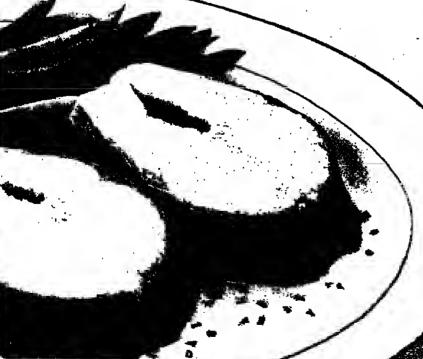
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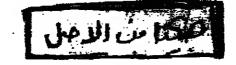
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Castro and the Pope face up to better times

Anne Hanley Rome:

Fidel Castro did not kiss the Pope's ring but this minor detail was ignored in the emotion of the moment: the lider maximo had come to visit the pontifex maximus, opening up a new era in relations between the world's most powerful theocracy and one of its very few remaining communist states.
It was 10.45am yesterday

when Castro's motorcade swept into the Vatican, and the Cuban leader was ushered up into the Pope's private apartments. A brief bow, a few words of greeting and John Paul II and Fidel disappeared into the library for talks which, the Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro Valls said, focused on "normalisation of the conditions under which the Catholic Church works in Cuba" and "national and international reconciliation".

Castro also issued an invitatioo to the Pope to visit his Caribbeao island. The Pope accepted, and is now widely expected to add a Cuban stopover to his itinerary for a pastoral visit to Brazil in October next year.

Yesterday's private audience was the culmination of several

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between the Holy See and Cuba. After decades of hostility, and harassment by Cuban authorities of Catholic clergy. and organisations, the two countries got down to serious dialogue in 1989. In 1992 Cuba changed its constitution to describe the island as a lay, rather than an atheist state.

Pope John Paul refrained from any of the

embraces and handshakes that he often lavishes on visiting

But it was not until last month, when the Vatican's "for-eign minister" Archbishop Jean-Louis Tauran met Castro in Havana, that a meeting between the Pope and the Catholiceducated Castro became a strong possibility.

dignitaries

Since his arrival in Italy four days ago for last week's World Food Summit, Castro has been locked with the Pope in what at times gave every appearance of

a competition to appear more conciliatory. The Pope kicked these good-

will overfures off in his inaugural speech to the summit, lashing out at trade emhargoes which bring hunger to innocent civilians. The reference was clearly to US sanctions against Cuba which have been in place since 1962.

Castro, on the other hand, made sure that the press was well within hearing range when he stressed to Italian Premier Romano Prodi that "the revohution has created no martyrs amongst the men of the cloth".

In a meeting at the Italy Cuba Association, he confessed that were I not a politician, I would take myself off to a

monastery".

Despite the huild-up, both
Castro and the Pope betrayed no signs of great emotion when they finally met yesterday, and the Pope refrained from any of the embraces and lengthy handshakes that he often lavishes on visiting dignitaries. Details of contents of Castro's audience, and his ensuing meeting with Secretary of State, Cardinal Angelo Sodano, were, as is customary in the Vatican, kept a closely guarded secret, although it was not difficult to read be-



Gestures of goodwill: Pope John Paul II and the Cuban leader Fidel Castro meet at the Vatican yesterday. After their private talks in the papa library, the pontiff accepted an invitation to visit Cuba and is expected to add the island to his October viist to Brazil Photograph: Reuten

tion", on the other hand, is a sition was made perfectly clear

tween the lines of the official version handed down by the Vatican Press office.

"Normalising the conditions under which the Church works in Cuba" refers to the severe restrictions placed on visiting clergy and on Catholic aid or-ganisations working in Cuba.

In a Press briefing, Mr Navarro Valls placed great emphasis on the fact that an island with the population of 11 million, where Catholics represent some 97 per cent, has only 200 priests ministering to its spiritual needs. "International reconcilia-

clear reference to Cuba's continuing difficult role on the world scene, and to the US trade embargo against it. Mr Navarro Valls claimed that the sanctions themselves were not explicitly discussed: "There was no need, and the Church's po-

at the World Food Summit," he

"National reconciliation" would seem to cover human rights abuses in Cuba but Castro, during his visit, has been keen to stress that - in the case of Cuba at least - such concepts are firmly in the eye of the beholder.

In a meeting with Italy's Foreign Minister, Lamberto Dini, on Monday, Mr Castro listed the many initiatives undertaken in defence of the indiunderlined that Cuba's electoral system "has the consensus of the majority of our citizens.

We'll set ourselves ablaze insist beauty protesters

Bangalore, India (Reuter) - An Indian woman again threatened to upstage Miss World's crowning moment by setting herself ablaze after a court said yes-terday that the beauty pageant can go ahead. One man burnt himself to death last week to protest against the show, which opponents say offends women

and Indian culture. My protests will be peaceful. By burning myself I will not be disrupting the show. We will go ahead with our earlier plan," Kina Narayana Shashikala, leader of the Mahila Jagran Samiti (Forum for Awakening Women), said, after a court rejected the group's petition to block the pageant

The group had held its threat of self-immolation in abeyance until the court decision was

"We declined to ban the show," R.P. Sethi, the chief jus-tice of the Karnataka High Court. "The state government should not prevent peaceful

Ms Shashikala has said several of her followers will join the 20,000 people expected to attend the Miss World crowning cer-emony on 23 November and take cyanide pills before setting their silk saris ablaze.

Julia Morley, president of Miss World International said: "Obviously it is a very sad sitnation when somebody is preout what we are all about." People attending events at the

Miss World gala have been frisked by police, who confiscated cigarette lighters and In addition to a de facto ban

on smoking, the court on Tuesday told pageant organisers that no alcohol should be served at the Chinnaswamy cricket stadium where the open air show is being held. The finale is expected to be seen by two billion television

viewers worldwide. A protester against the

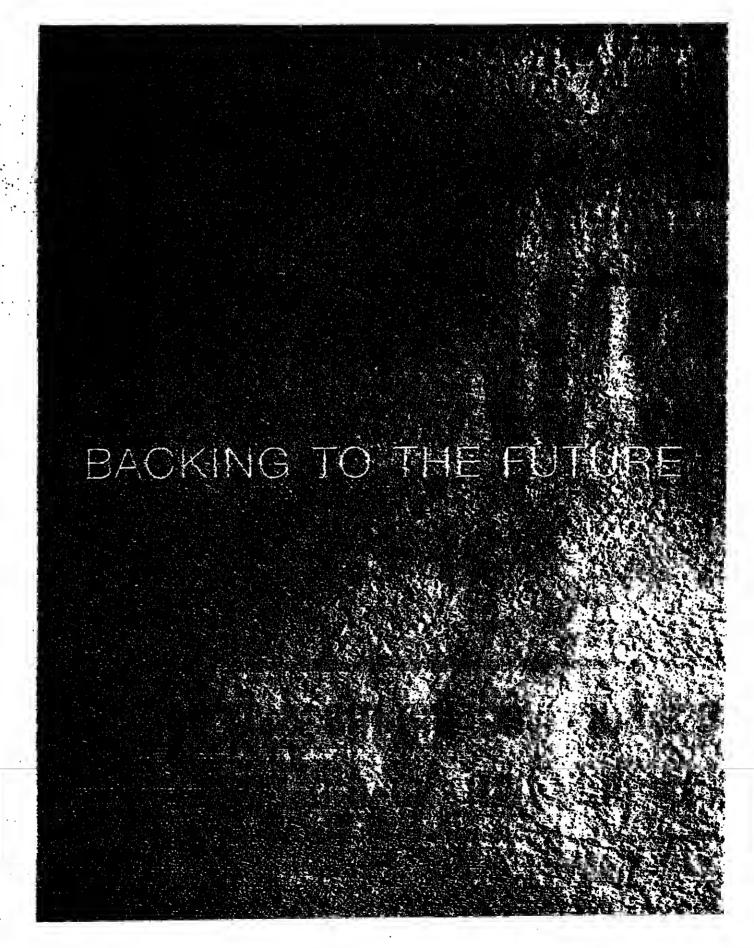
Michael Jackson concert in Bombay in late October also threatened to burn himself but was detained by police before he could commit suicide. Under Indian law, police can take people into custody as a preventive

A police chief and senior court official were assigned by the high court to watch the beauty parade on Saturday to posure of bodies; nudity or ob-scenity."Absolutely. I agree with that wholebeartedly." Julia Morley said when informed of the ruling.

The ruling Janata Dal in Karnataka, which is Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda's party, has supported Miss World coming to the state cap-ital, which is known as India's "Garden City", but any politi-cians hoping for a free ticket can think again.

The court said that people in the state government will have to pay like anyone else.

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AND QUOTE REF 5678. (SORRETHE ARE UMBELE TO ACCEPT SMITCH GARDS) Offer subject to status and a standard skilling contract for each phone with Cathologies Direct Ltd. 185 Lower Histoniad Road, Richmond-apon-Full written details and territy and conditions of this prior are available on request. © Cappright. Registered No. 2995222. Caroline Lees reports from the secret schools where young men are trained to wage Holy War

Afghan guerrilla bases are reopened

Khost — Guerrilla training camps closed by the Taliban Islamic army are reopening - un-der new management. When the Taliban were formed two years ago, they promised to rid Afghanistan of such "universities", where Muslims from all over the world were taught gun-making and guerrilla war-

Their promise helped win support for the Islamic army, es-pecially from the West, which linked graduates of Afghanistan camps with terrorism. Harkatul-Ansar (HUA), the group believed to have killed five Western hostages it kidnapped in Kashmir last year, sends all its recruits to the camps.

Ahmed Sheikh, a former London School of Economics student who kidnapped two Britons in New Delhi two years ago, said he was trained in

A recent attack on the Egyptian embassy in Islam-abad, Pakistan, was hlamed on people who had just finished bomb-making classes across the border.

Until now, Western observers hoped that the Taliban would fulfil their pledge to han training, especially after they closed camps near Jalalabad and Kabul. But there is evidence that at least two camps have reopened. Al Badr 1 and Al Badr 2, oo the Pakistani border, were closed two months ago and 107 Pakistani trainees seot home.

But this week they are back in operation, with the same instructors and many of the same trainees. The only oew thing is the management: Hezb-i-Islayar, and which is loyal to Presideni Burhanuddin Rabbani, who was expelled from Kabul in September, has been moved out, and the HUA moved in.

Before the Taliban advance two years ago, camps were dotted around round the country. mostly run as businesses by Mr Hekmatyar and another ally of Mr Rabbani.

Mr Hekmatyar ran camps near the Pakistani border and near Jalalabad, south-east of Kabul. The largest, Darunta, closed soon after the Taliban took that city in August. It was training 200 foreigners and is now empty. The other owner, Abd al

Rabb al Rasul Sayyaf, had camps east and west of Kabul, which have also closed. Both received millions of pounds' "aid" from Middle Eastern groups in exchange for training Islamists for the "holy war".

Now the Taliban appear to want a cut. Although Mr Hekmatyar's and Mr Savyaf's camps are empty. it is rumoured that they, like Al Badr, will soon reopen, under Talihan control. Few would he surprised.

"Afghanistan is a very good tovestment site for terrorism. It will always have a front line, weapons are easily and cheaply available and anything goes there," said a Western diplomat.

Jamaat-i-Islami (JII), a Pakistani group which sent members for training, intends to cootinue as soon as more camps reopen. Yacouh, a III leader, learnt to use guns and rocket lauochers and received religious instruction in Afghanistan. I learned useful ... skills, which Muslims will contioue to oeed mi. a group led by the Prime until we get the right of freedom Minister, Gulbuddin Hekmat- of speech and freedom of expressioo in our own countries."



On the warpath: Fundamentalist Taliban fighters heading towards the Panjsher Valley in north-east Afghanistan, stronghold of their enemy Ahmed Shah Masood, the military chief of the ousted government. The valley is just one of many pockets of resistance to the new Taliban regime, established in Kabul last month Photograph: Reuters



Taliban gives the nod to military training camps

guerrillas than in the foothills of the Hindu Kush, in Eastern-Afghanistan.

It is an isolated, lonely area, maccessiole to anyone without a pass from the local Taliban governor, or from the Pak-istani authorities just over the

Foreigners are hanned. I . wore a hurqua - a head-to-toe checkpoints, and managed to slip in through the back, and onto the training ground.

The 12-square-mile compound is enclosed by a high barbed wire fence and look-out posts. Apart from a blackboard, exercise equipment, ropes and hurdles which can be seen from the main gates, there are few obvious signs that this is one of Afghanistan's biggest military training centres.

The trainees are put into one of two camps: Al Badr 1 and Al Badr 2. Al Badr 1 holds about 200, mainly Pakistani, recruits. They train to fight against the Indian army in Kashmir for seplamic militarits. Al Badr 2 ous management had left he-accepts up to 160 foreign hind, including 150 AK-47s, 70 trainees, especially Arabs and of them hrand oew and still in trainees, especially Arabs and

There are religious classes instructing trainees in the nature of the Jihad

preparing to fight. Every trainee is sponsored by an Islamic group. When the fundamen-talist Taliban government took

Sudanese Muslims who want to fight in Chechnya and Bosnia. Their lessons are in bombmaking, the use of automatic weapons, rocket launchers and anti-aircraft guns. There are religious classes, instructing trainees in the nature of the Jihad - Holy War - they are

Radical group has high profile at 'secret' site

The Khost training camps are supposed to be secret, but on a hill opposite the main gate the oew management has provided Two trainees at Al Badr I told a Peshawar-based journalist, Rahimullah Yusefzai, that they oew management has provided a helpful clue to their identity: the word "Harkat-ul-Ansar" has been painstakingly spelt out in Urdu, in six-foot-high letters with white stones, writes Caroline Lees. It is a bizarre touch, adopted from the traditioo of marking an area where an army regiment has its headquarters.

Harkat-ul-Ansar (HUA) is one of the most radical Islamic militant groups in the region. It is about to be officially designated a terrorist organisation and outlawed by the United States, following its mvolvement in recent international terrorist activities, including the kidnapping and murder of five Western hostages in Kashmir last year.

News of the group's presence in the training camps at Khost has alarmed Western diplomats in Islamabad, who describe it as "extremely serious". There was also concern about Pakistan's role in the operation of

HUA openly holds public rallies and fund-raising meetings in Pakistan. It has offices all over the country, especially in Karachi and the Punjab, where unemployment is high and re-

had been sent for training after being recruited by the HUA at its office in Murree, north-west Pakistan. Apart from seeming to sanc-tion HUA's activities, Pakistani authorities are believed to know about the reopening of the camp in Khost and to turn a blind eye to the coachloads full

of young men who regularly dri-

ve from Pakistan to join the

training. Petrol and food for these 360 trainees is also sent across the border by Pakistani The Pakistani government may not play an official role in the Khost camps, but it has made access to them easy. Last year a new tarred road, the only one in the province, was built by Pakistao from Khost to Miran Shah, across the border in

Pakistan. It is in Pakistan's interest to support HUA's military training activities. Most of their camp graduates are sent to fight in Afghanistan with the Talibao against the Indian-backed former government forces, or to Kashmir to fight the Indian Army. The HUA may not fight in the name of Pakistan, but they are on the same side.

Khost – There could be few better places to hide 360 trained ul-Ansar, the Pakistan based is the places to hide 360 trained ul-Ansar, the Pakistan based is the places to hide 360 trained ul-Ansar, the Pakistan based is the places to hide 360 trained ul-Ansar, the Pakistan based is the places to hide 360 trained ul-Ansar, the Pakistan based is the places to hide 360 trained ul-Ansar, the Pakistan based is the places to hide 360 trained ul-Ansar, the Pakistan based is the places to hide 360 trained ul-Ansar, the Pakistan based is the places to hide 360 trained ul-Ansar, the Pakistan based is the places to hide 360 trained ul-Ansar, the Pakistan based is the places to hide 360 trained ul-Ansar, the Pakistan based is the places to hide 360 trained ul-Ansar, the Pakistan based is the places to hide 360 trained ul-Ansar, the Pakistan based is the places to hide 360 trained ul-Ansar, the Pakistan based is the places to hide 360 trained ul-Ansar, the Pakistan based is the places to hide 360 trained ul-Ansar, the Pakistan based is the places to hide 360 trained ul-Ansar, the Pakistan based is the places to hide 360 trained ul-Ansar, th their boxes; one tank, ten rocket launchers, a multi-barrelled rocket launcher and boxes of combat uoiforms.

For the long evenings io the camps, there was a video player and a television set, with 80 video cassettes. Most of the videos were instructive films oo

guerilla warfare. They also seized motivational audio cassettes of speeches by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, the leader of Hezh-i-Islami. Music is hanned in Talihan-controlled areas of

politically correct poems - usu-

some of the trainees do not even know where their sons are. Some trainees are young men, only 17 or 18 years old, who admitted that they had run away from home to join the Jihad.
But the training is dangerous. (hi

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Contain.

All of the men are given an AK-47 when they begin the course and few have any experience of how to use them. As I left the camp through the back, I passed a single grave marked by a pile of stones beside a mud-

This man died during training," said my guide. "Nobody knew where he came from, his family do not even know he is

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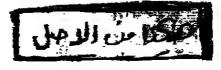


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Hundreds of thousands of refugees in Zaire are now trekking home to Rwanda (many will do the journey on foot). Such a massive in flux of weak and sick will stretch local resources to crisis point. Medecios Sans Frontieres has opened clinics along the main roads from Zaire, where doctors and nurses provide medical care, emergency feeding, water and sanitatioo. But we have not forgotten the hundreds of thousands of people still stranded in the war zone. MSF convoys of medicines and food are oo their way deeper into Zaire to reach them. Amongst the medical supplies are IV fluids, as the most severe cases of cholera require about 25 litres. This costs 85 p per litre. Sn please give what you can, so we can save lives. Life is a human right.

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Toothless unions don't need muzzling

ew Tory proposals to shackle the unions further are unnecessary and - most important, in this season of electoral calculations - unlikely to reap a political reward. The Government's latest wheeze is to publish proposals, green, white and blue, and promise to legislate for them "in the next Parliament". This allows the machmery of Whitehall to be used to work up proposals that are effectively paragraphs from the draft Tory Party manifesto. Yesterday's addition to this suspect canon of governmental literature was a Green Paper proposing yet more trade union restrictions.

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It is not worth wasting much time on the specific measures proposed, for one thing because much of the detail has yet to be filled in. Legal immunity is to be removed from industrial action that is "disproportionate or excessive" - for example, we are told, action carrying a risk to health and safety. Presumably that includes any strike action in the water or electricity industries? It is a measure of this Government's disconnection from proper priorities that it cannot see that the public is now much more concerned about inadequately regulated and greedy managers in the household utilities than about their

shrinking numbers of employees. The new proposals do stop short of banning industrial action in "essential services". And increasing to a fortnight the period of notice before industrial action can be taken is not going to thwart determined employees. A lot of this Green Paper is political posturing. But it is a performance in vain.

Two decades ago British trade unions were an unmistakable symptom and causal agent of the British disease. The unions had power but no responsibility, public distaste for their role was underlined by the number of their members who voted for Mrs Thatcher in May 1979, and in subsequent general elec-tions. During the Eighties trade unionism was exposed to restrictive Torylegislation, and the opening of the economy to brisk competition. Union membership shrank. Industrial power passed from shop floor to boardroom. Tripartitism, Britain's variant on the corporatism practised successfully across. post-war Europe, withered. The union

barons became outlaws.

The other great change was the emancipation of the Labour Party from the unions which had given it birth. The movement begun by Neil Kinnock, and now just about realised by Tony Blair, was needed long before the challenge of the Fighties. In spite of that the unions the Eighties. In spite of that, the unions took their time to move on out. But recently there have been welcome signs of union leaders' reaching for their own, separate political destiny. Take the speech made on European monetary union yesterday by John Monks. It was in some ways an odd speech: does the



ONE CANADA SQUARE CANARY WHARF LONDON E14 5DL TELEPHONE 0171-298 2000 / 0171-345 2000 FAX 0171-293 2435 / 0171-345 2485

of the Maastricht convergence criteria. with all that they imply not just for the jobs of state employees in member countries but for "social partnership" itself? Mr Monks doubtless has his reasons. But the symbolism of his taking a different line from Labour mattered more. This is how it should be. The TUC has to become more like the AFL-CIO in the US, anxious to secure the return of Democrats, surely, but resolutely distinct in organisation and aspiration.

Those changes have cleared the field not so much for a revival of trades unionism but for a renewed acceptance TUC really buy the deflationary effects of the unions' role and opportunity. The

British people - tomorrow's British Social Attitudes survey will doubtless confirm previous findings in this direction - have an ineffable sense of fairness. In spite of the Tories, they favour progressive taxation. They despise boardroom greed and the patent lack of merit in so many of the payments systems enjoyed by company directors. On the unions they broadly feel enough is enough - that the balance of power inside organisations either is just about right, or has maybe already shifted too far in the employers' direction. Interand the London Underground have not shifted this view. Those are not examples of resurgent Scargillism: we all know that is stone cold dead. It was the result of long years of bad management and bloody-minded and often politically-motivated union leadership. Two core principles cover what is

needed: a right to join a collective bargaining unit, and a right to take action against an employer in accepted circumstances. As a formula, common law immunity is anomalous, yes, but it still registers the public's wish for those at work to have some sanction to redress the inevitable imbalance of power between them and their employers. Labour has some useful ideas for smoothing the path of those wanting to organise. But there is no compelling case for more legislation controlling unions. Unions can only be as strong as their capacity to persuade and inspire. They will continue to attract members and find a role in some areas of employment, but they will struggle to sustain an active role in others. The shakedown of trades unionism in our society should now be allowed to follow a natural course; we don't need to meddle with it any further.

The Government's thinking about the future of the unions is on a par with its reaction to the 4S-hour week - this one muddied because of the European connection. The best performing orgmittent action by Royal Mail staff and anisation commands not just the assent, last summer's disruption on the railways but also the enthusiasm of its staff.

Trades unions, at best, can increase the difference between the cost of employment and organisational output. As collective bargainers, they can enhance the dignity and rights of individual employees. There are few economie sectors where unions can, as they once could, threaten the public interest. There will even be (rare) occasions when public inconvenience is a price the public is prepared to pay. The Government should stop living in the past; Labour should start talking about the future.

The wrong road to salvation

The Pope's excuse could be that he is enjoined by the Gospels and his stewardship of Peter's keys to welcome them all to the Vatican. But what is Fidel Castro's rationale for climbing the steps of St Peter's in order to smell the smoke of the people's opium? It is surely a bit late for priestly intercession for reprobate revolutionaries.

Cuba's future will not be resolved in Rome, or even on the streets of Havana. There is no future for this island separate from what the United States will approve or tolerate. This may not be a happy fact, but it is a geopolitical onc. Cuba has more to come to terms with in Miami than in St Peter's Square,

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

Children let down by shift in fostering

Sir: Congratulations to Kenneth Redgrave for bringing to public notice some of the discrepancies of the social services (letter, 18 November). Having been a foster mother for 45 years, I have seen all the changes over the years.

When I first became a foster mother, you had a child and it stayed with you all through childhood, started a career, got married and brought the children to see their grandma. This is now completely impossible. The system is making the children angry and violent.

because of neglect, cruelty or violence are put immediately with foster carers, instead of a period of training or rehabilitation. Often they are sent to inexperienced carers, and it breaks down. The older, more experienced carers are "thrown out", instead of being used to help and train the inexperienced (social workers do not have time

for this). Children are virtually cast out at 16. Lip service is paid to finding them accommodation, which they often cannot afford to maintain. That is why so many of these children are on the streets, sleeping rough or in prostitution, with no links to go back to, as in most cases fostering has only been a short-

term affair. These children get the blame for many things that they are the victims of, not the perpetrators.

Raising the pay to carers is not the answer, even though the lowest pay is about 30p an hour. There is the insecurity of fostering: you are self-employed, with oo rights, no pension, no paid holidays - though some local authorities are now addressing the holiday question.

When will the powers that be realise that things are getting worse and worse? The victims will be the ehildren. They cry out for stability and a home life. HELENA F MORRIS Wick, Hereford and Worcester

Sir: Kenneth Redgrave's letter on the child victims of failed foster care struck many chords.

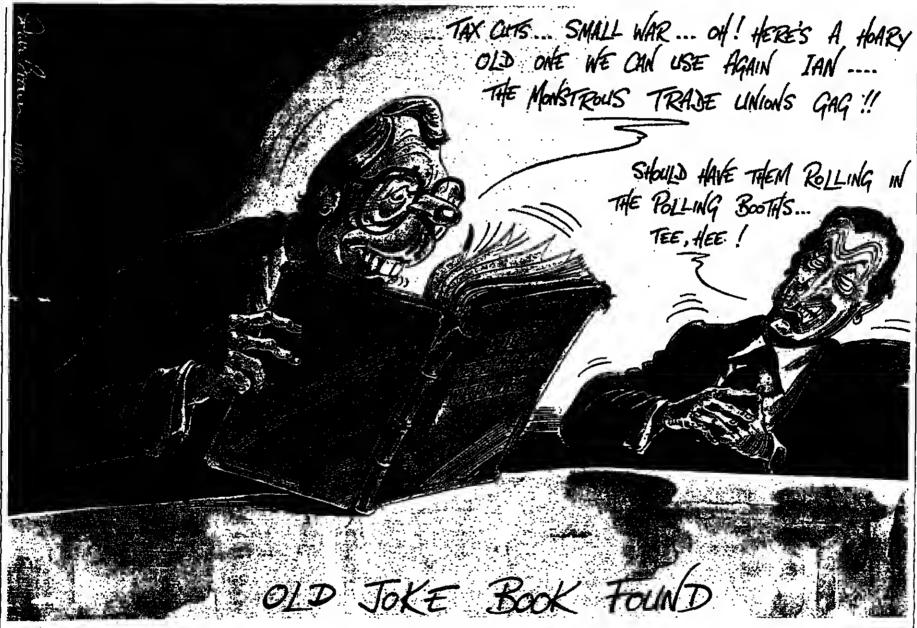
Fuster care and residential care have indeed been seen as competitors, whereas the National Foster Care Association has always maintained that informed choices should be made for children fullowing proper assessment of their needs. This assessment could he carried out while the child is living at home or in a short-term foster or residential setting. depending on individual circumstances.

We too believe that the time is right for a reappraisal of the services that are offered to children who come into the care of local authorities - and in particular a fresh look should be taken at how those who work with the children are helped and supported.

The majority of children being cared for are still placed with volunteers. Most do a wonderful job, sticking with children no matter what. But if a child-centred service is what is needed, it will necessarily make greater demands of carers; in these circumstances, can they continue to be wholly

voluntary? Isn't if time that we were in a position to require carers not to give up on placements, for the sake of the children? If that is the case, what rewards should they be

We also believe that it is time to



foster care, one way to help avoid placement breakdown is to give the placement worker responsibility for ensuring that carets are providing a quality service.

Any assessment and

improvement of services for children will require adequate resourcing. Without a commitment from central government, the local authorities charged with providing these services will be unable to address what are clearly pressing

PAT VERITY National Foster Care Association London SEI

Sir, On the one hand Kenneth Redgrave asserts that insufficient funding and training are. responsible for the parious state of child care by social service departments. But on the other he seems to blame those departments

for that state of affairs. A few years ago the social work profession wanted a three-year hasic training, the Qualifying Diploma in Social Work. The Government said that was too expensive and opted for the twoyear Diploma in Social Work, which we all agree is a basic qualification only. Further, it is the Government that restricts local authority spending by the standard spending assessment and capping for those who exceed it.

Mr Redgrave refers to the "careful planning and assessment which used to be available". In the present system a social worker can do all the assessment possible but at the end has to accept whatever is available, very often something

look at the role of social workers and family placement workers, to see how they can provide children with a better service. If a child is placed in admit — as though they are guilty of something - that their specialist training is defective. Very often the recently qualified are the only ones ROBERT CAMERON

Wild talk from Jewish leader

Romsey, Hampshire

Sir: Mr Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, describes the assimilation of Jews into the wider community as a "silent Holocaust" ("US Jews fear Israel is casting them adrift", 16 November). This is not the first time such a

comparison has been made. Before its currency becomes general, even in a small circle of ewry, the horrific implications of such a remark should be made clear. For a child of mixed marriage (my father was Jewish), it is implied that my life and those of my childreo are so worthless that they may as well have been disposed of by state violence.

My cousins, who were murdered by the Nazis on account of being Jewish, must have their suffering likened to the life of a Gentile raised in peace and prosperity. It is ironic that this supreme insult to the victims of the Holocaust should come from a man who claims to be Jewish leader. ROWLAND NELKEN Colston Bassett, Nottinghamshire

voting system

Sir: While it is true, as stated by Miles Hudson (letter, 18 November), that the additional MPs selected under the Hansard Report system would not be placemen nominated by their political parties, there are other consequential problems.

The intention is that they should serve their party's voters regionally or nationally. However, they will be their party's best loser in a single-member constituency and will clearly have a particular interest in cultivating the voters of that

constituency.

It was the high percentage vote in that constituency which helped elect them. Some constitueocies might find themselves with three MPs if a minor party candidate polied well there.

There are already reports that

the additional members in New Zealand are taking a much closer interest in the single-member constituencies where they stood but were defeated, even though the allocation is not done on the basis of best losers, but by a national list.

In any case the additional member system does not correct the other defects of the singlemember system.

If the voters are to have a choice of candidate within the party of their choice, be it according to age, gender, left wing, right wing, ethnicity or religious confession and the power to replace

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number.

Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk).

E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Snags of Hansard found wanting, it is necessary to elect more than one MP to represent a constituency, as noted in your leader of the 11 November.

E M SYDDIQUE Chief Executive Electoral Reform Society London SE1

Parliament needs business people

Sir. There is of course a third way of looking at Steveo Norris's appointment as head of the lorryowners' trade association (leader, 18 November).

Before entering Parliament, Mr Norris was a successful businessman working within the transport sector.

On leaving Parliament he is to return to that world. In the interim he brought considerable expertise and understanding to a key brief, that of transport minister with responsibility for London, and at a fraction of the salary he would have earned outside.

To describe such a career path as "irresponsible" sends a clear message to the few business people of real talent to eoter politics. If you have an area of real understanding, make sure yon do not accept a ministerial post through which you could make that understanding available for the benefit of the

country. You will be vilified for, and

Cooking lobsters without torture

maybe even prevented from, returning to that field after your

years of public service. The scandal is oot what Mr

Norris does next; it is that our

political system could not keep

the likes of him, Tim Eggar and

others, in government. Attitudes

such as yours can only underline the question that many of true

talent must ask themselves when

considering eotering, or remaining in, politics: why

MALCOLM C GRIMSTON London SW17

bother?

Sir: Annie Bell's artiele (Magazine, 16 November) on ways of dispatching live lobsters rightly condemns the barbaric practice of plunging them into boiling water. Among the few alternative methods she considered there was no mention of the one advocated by Philip Harben (The Grammar of Cookery, 1965).

"By immersing a live shellfish in water at cooking temperature you kill it and cook it in one operation. But ... to plunge a lobster or a crah living, into boiling water is to torture it. Crabs shed elaws (a sure sign of terror in the crab) and lobsters scrabble desperately up the side of the pot.

"This is the way to do it. Pour mildly tepid water - not cold or hot - over the live fish. This stuns it. Bring the water rapidly towards the boil, and the lobster will die before recovering consciousness - not a flicker of a whisker. ROGER MAYLOR Sunderland

No nightmares on my farm

Sir; The subtitle to your article "Man and beast" by Danny Penman (18 November) stated that "broken legs, cannibalism, heavy usage of drugs and constant agony is life for the average British farm animal".

I am a modern average British farm animal ".

farmer on a modern average British farm; I keep average farm animals and could not recognise this nightmare that Dr Penman would have us believe is life for the average British farm animal.

The writer ignores the Farm Assurance Livestock Schemes, which are now an important part of modern British stock-keeping. Their primary aim is stock welfare through all stages from farm to

in its welfare schemes and laws. Dr Penman's insinuation that one nuarter of British cattle are fed illegal drugs is nonsense. Feed ingredients have to be declared by law. If he has proof to the contrary he should

prosecute, with our blessing. He also fails to realise that the death of so many lambs at lambing time is due to nature - not any mortal's fault but a rather nasty fact of life and death on a farm. Would he rather the farmer played God

and changed the weather?

Animal welfare is a very serious matter. Average British farmers take the lives of their animals very seriously. They have to. Their livelihoods depend on it. Dr Penman should visit an upland stock farm; he might be agreeably surprised by what he fiods. ROBERT CARR Melrosc, Roxburghshire

Rind robins

Sir: With reference to your conundrum about bacon rind for birds (letter, 13 November), most birds common to the British garden are unaccustomed to consuming animal fat. The salt in bacon is in a concentratioo uolikely to be consumed naturally by, for example, a sparrow or tit.

However, bacon rind has been discovered in the oests of some birds, where it has also had the benefit of transferring grease to the plumage of young birds, thus affording valuable waterproofing. NATHAN SMEDLEY Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire

Music of menace

Sir, I was puzzled by the reference in the article on the demise of Mastermind (15 November) to the type of tension which the "sinister" title music was apparently intended to create. This is described as the 'tension of a Nazi war camp". There are many types of tension on offer, and I cannot think why the sort referred to should be the one that was supposed to spring to mind. I defy any viewer to write in claiming that the music ever made them think of the Nazis. Professor DAVID HEAD Department of Modern Languages University of Northumbria at Newcustle

In uniform at 14

Sir: With regard to youthful enlistment in war (Letters, 13 and 16 November), a friend of mine ran away from school and celebrated his 15th birthday as an infantryman in Salonika in 1917. At that stage of the war, recruiting sergeants were not particular: "If you were warm, KENYON ALEXANDER

Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire

Marlow suddenly. "has been one of the dark places of the earth." Thus, on the River Thames,

begins a story that is one of the most compelling and influential works of English literature in the last century: Joseph Conrad's Heart of Darkness. It is the story of Marlow's journey through the jungles of the Belgian Congo to and the marting the market of the Belgian Congo to the story of the market of the story find the mysterious Kurtz, a colonial figure of mythic status who has gone mad, acquiring power and influence over the natives while losing his own mind in the process. It is an account of the descent of a Westerner into savagery as he encounters Africa, of a man who has lort his manual burners.

lost his moral bearings deep in the jungle.

A tale of colonial adventure in what is now Zaire has obvious relevance as foreign forces prepare to arrive in that benighted country to deliver humanitarian assistance. But it is not quite the message that a casual reading of the story would give us, the reading that is pressed upon us by those who see in central Africa's problems merchy hymnosis and a message is being merely humanity gone mad. A message is being sent when the phrase "heart of darkness" is casually bandied around: that Africa is irredeemably savage, the dark continent, a place where light and civilisation (a Western preserve) can never penetrate. Contrad's work, and the casual use of its title to refer to bloodshed and war, has become an icon of Vestern attitudes towards the Third

World, and Africa in particular, a supporting argument from art for the thesis that parts of the Third World are mad, bad and dangerous to know,

But it is not so; and a careful look at Conrad, and the background to his novel, reveals far more than casual racism or the careless perpetration of stereotypes. As Conrad knew, when we stare into the dark-

ness we are looking into our own hearts.

The story was first printed in *Blackwoods Magazine* (a dark irony itself, the title of the publication). It is about the hypocrisy inherent in colonialism, and the violence it begets. Marlow, a sea-captain, is given the mission in the first place because his predecester has been balled. sor has been killed after he savagely attacked an African chief in an argument over two hens. "He had been a couple of years already out there engaged in the noble cause, you know, and he probably felt the need at last of asserting his self-respect in some way." comments Marlow, laconically.

He is told that Kurtz is a prodigy, "an emissary of pity, and science, and progress, and devil knows what else." Kurtz has written an eloquent report for the International Society for the Suppression of Savage Customs. Yet this is also a man who can say: "Exterminate all the Brutes!" And when he finds him. Kurtz is gone, dying, his soul already lost: "The wilderness had found him out early." He is no longer the mythic figure that Marlow has sought, just a sad

and hroken man dying from fever.

Conrad's story is about the clash between the colonial ideal, the *mission civilisarice*, and the reality enslavement, murder, plunder and disaster. The subject is colonial hypocrisy, not African madness. He locates it in Africa, and in the Congo, I suspect, both because he had been there and because Congo was not British, it was Belgian. Conrad (Polish by hirth) apparently did not wish to antagonise his British readers. For the book is at least partly about Britain, and British colonialism (Kurtz is half-Freigh). Courad softened his message. English, half-French]. Conrad softened his message, hut it is always there, nudging gently at our

He starts his book on the misty Thames just down the river from The Independent's office, not on the Congo; and this strain runs throughout the book, seeping through in references to the Romans in Britain, to Drake (the subject of a critical article in Blackwoods), and to Sir John Franklin (whose expedition to the North-West Passage ended in disaster, and in cannibalism).

At the centre of Conrad's book is the appalling spiritual contradiction faced by those who left Europe for Empire, taking with them the belief that



they were going to do good. Nowhere was this belief more prevalent than among the Britons who set out for Africa, India or Asia. Yet the idealism was inevitably contradicted by the brutality that they found themselves indulging in, a brutality that they could not bear to countenance. Faced with their own descent into violence, they often took refuge in a belief that this was, somehow, not happening, or that they had no choice in the matter. The men of empire, writes Kathryn Tidrick in her book Empire and the English Character, were forced into this denial of violence "not only because they had moral reservations about physical coercion but because they believed that they were blessed with attributes of character which enabled them to prevail

without it." Out of this psychological contradiction, and its unsustainability, comes Kurtz's madness. Tidrick's book is full of good men who found this hypocrisy hard to bear, and who were led as a result to brutality, mad-

Certainly, Conrad did not have far to look to find examples. He draws heavily mpon the career of the journalist Henry Morton Stanley, anthor of *In Darkest* Africa, for whom the search for a story led to exploration, and then to involve-ment in the events he described. After his famous meeting with Livingstone, Stanley moved on to the service of the Belgian King Leopold, who ran Congo as his personal fief under the cover of the International Association for the Exploration and Civilisation of Africa. Stanley was widely regarded in Britain as a freebooter and a thug. "He has no concern with justice, no right to administer it; he comes with no sanction, no authority, no invisition. with no sanction, no authority, no jurisdiction

> vention in Vietnam and the reality,. and the inability of either Marlow (now a young Special Forces cap-tain) or Kurtz (a colonel in the Green Berets) to bridge that

of The Daily Telegraph," wrote The Satur-

out explosive bullets and a cop

gap. This is a war where, as may drop fire on people from their helicopters, but they cannot write the word "Fuck" on Salvation Army, their helmets; where, had seen the as Marlow puts it, human soldiers can cut destruction

someone in half with a machine gun and then give them a Band-Aid. But if Coppola associated Vietnam with Conrad, it is not hard to think of other areas of the world where the "international community" has intervened, only to find itself condoning, or even supporting, brutality. Think of the Durch marines, tasked to defend the people of Srebrenica in Bosnia, but in effect allowing the town to fall to Serbs who would massacre thousands. Think of the Canadian paratroopers in Somalia, torturing two of the people they had been sent to feed.

If, when we look at the tragedy in Zaire, we simply see a caricature of tribal clashes and jungle savagery, then we see false. The roots of today's struggles, deaths and disasters in central Africa lie in the deadly encounter of Europe with Africa. It was Belgium and France that created the state structures of Zaire, Burundi and Rwanda; emphasised the "ethnic" differences that now fuel genocide; drew
the boundaries; and decided who would rule whom.
In Zaire, it is not just the Hutu militias from Rwanda
that bear the blamer for the crisis; it is the Westerndominated UN Security Council, for ignoring them
until it was (almost) too later and it is those who dominated UN Security Council, for ignoring them until it was (almost) too late; and it is those who armed and supplied the forces on the ground (which appears to have been almost everyone). And in Zaire, crumbling rapidly now that the regime of Mobutu Sese Seko is all but over, who was it that provided the cash to prop up a corrupt regime? Who supplies the weapons to the rebels who seek to overthrow it? Who flies the transport planes, sells the rifles, feeds the constant wars for resources and rifles, feeds the constant wars for resources and influence throughout Africa? Is it any surprise that the French are seen as far from neutral, with their history of involvement in the Hntu-Tutsl antagonism, or the British suspect, with their background in the

The darkness that Conrad saw was not in Africa; it was in the hearts of the colonialists themselves, those men who trav-There are obvious modern parallels. elled from far away with their high hopes Francis Ford Coppola's sprawling film masterpiece, Apocalypse Now, is based on Conrad's novel. It expresses the yawning gap hetween the ideals behind American interpretation of the ideals was with a way with the interpretation and saw them fade into their worst fears. Nor was it just colonialism, there is a fin desired into their worst fears. Nor was it just colonialism, there is a fin desired into their worst fears. to strike a chord with us as we head towards the end of our bloody

century. Conrad was writing at the end of the 19th century, when the ideas of progress, faith in Kurtz puts it, young men science, and rationality were ebbing. A few years before, William Booth, founding the

also a darkest England?" Britain was about to plunge into the Boer War, where concentration camps were pioneered. Within 20 years, the whole of Europe was to be plunged into a savwhole of Europe was to be plunged into a save age and bloody war to rival anything the world had ever seen, barbed wire running from Bel-gium to Switzerland, poison gas drifting across the plains of northern France, the corpses piled up across the continent. All of this is just below the surface as

Marlow finishes his traveller's tale, and the boat drifts on the Thames. The offing was barred by a black bank of clouds," the narrator says, "and the tranquil waterway leading to the uttermost ends of the earth flowed sombre under an overcast sky seemed to lead into the heart of

Heart of prejudice

No one better described the encounter with Africa of European adventurers, explorers and colonialists than Joseph Conrad. Andrew Marshall shows how he unveiled the attitudes that still blind us to the realities of Rwanda and Zaire



Answers please, to mysteries of our time



Miles **Kington**

oday we present Ten Great Mysteries of Our

1. We all know, because we have been told so many times, that the future of communications is going to fall into the hands of one man.

The mystery is: why can nobody make up their minds whether it is going to be Rupert Murdoch or Bill Gates?

2. If shooting is such an integral part of sport, the mysing isn't an Olympic event as well.

3. As things stand at the moment, the number of children who are shot every year, by madmen or normal people, is very small. A dozen or so. Perhaps two dozen in a Dun-

hlane year. The number of children run over and killed by cars and lorries every year is very large, running to hundreds, even thousands. There is great pressure to

prevent them falling into the hands of another madman who might create another There is no pressure at all to get cars banned, even

get guns banned, in order to

though they are well known to cause much higher levels of death to children, and even though a car is a much more effective weapon of death than

It is sometimes said that a car in the hands of a madman cannot do as much damage as a gun in the hands of a madman. This is true. It is not the problem, however. What worries people is not the damage

do. It is the damage which a car driven by a normal person can do. Many more children are run over by normal citizens than are shot (or run over) by madmen.

But nobody tries to ban Or control normal citizens. Why not?

It's a mystery. 4. Now that Chile and South Africa have spent their

season in the limelight as the newly fashionable wineproducing country, in the wake of Bulgaria, Australia, New Zealand, etc, etc, is there any wine-producing country left which hasn't had its hour of discovery and triumph?

5. Once every five years politicians have to take notice of what the public thinks, because at a general election the public can pass judgement on them. This is hard for politicians, because as a general rule they despise the public and do not respect what they think, even though they say the opposite. They say: "The man in the street is no fool", even though they privately think that the man in election comes closer, the party in power prepares little tax cuts and little sweeteners for the electorate in the belief that the public is fool enough to forget the last few years of misrule and vote them back in

The mystery, however, is not whether the public actually is an ass or not.

The mystery is why on earth politicians want to be voted back in again.

6. Never have two jolly people laughed so much as Jennifer Paterson and Clarissa Dickson Wright in Two Fat Ladies.

But what were they laugh-

ing at?
7. When the National Lottery first appeared, a statistician said, of the chances of winning, that if a casino offered the same odds, it would be closed down.

The mystery is: why do people buy lottery tickets?

8. We are often told that women are afraid to go out by themselves late at night in cities, because it is dangerous, ie because they might be attacked by men. Women are

therefore warned not to go out by themselves late at night in **ես**թը, դեր

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But women are not causing any trouble.

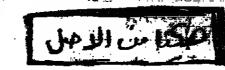
It is men who are causing The mystery is: Why is it not men who are banned from

going out late at night in 9. A red-faced BBC is still worrying why Rhodes seems to have been such a total turn-off for the audience, even though all that money was spent on it. and they even got that sex

chap from Drop The Deside Donkey to star in it. Has it occurred to the that when 90 per cent of the audience switch on a programme called Rhodes, they going to expect to see a see young chef showing them how to cook, and will switch of the cook, and will switch of the cook, and there?

again when he's not there? 10. Who, over the age of 18 actually looks forward to Christmas?

If anyone knows the answer to any of these, or to the my tery of whether Greg Proops is related to Marie Proops please get in touch, though not a



It's going to be close, and only you know how close

would have ooticed: the Cabinet minister who preceded me out of the restaurant had oot slipped a tenner to the waiter. But the waiter swivelled as the Tory left and hissed, "Good luck to you oo Thursday - whichever Thursday it is".

Over lunch, the minister had heen explaining why he thought the Tories could well win the election. I had listened politely, credulity suspended by the forkload.

But in the taxi back, the waiter's offhand comment reverberated. Conventional wisdom says that the polling gap is too large and too long for the Tories to really recover. Comfortable, lib-eral-minded Britain knows that the banal argument, time for a change", is now irrefutable. In much of the City and the media, people have already made the meutal adjustment: Tony Blair and Peter Mandelson are

almost in power.
The problem, of course, is that conventional wisdom is so often foolish; that what liberal-minded Britain considers irrefutable has been so often refuted, and that the City and my profession are such bad futurologists. Per-

haps there is too much hidden superstition in my argument. But there it is. The feeling lurks.

Can it be justified at all? Evidence of almost subliminal agenda. Labour invincibility is based, of course, on the polls, which have long shown a huge and consistent Opposition lead. This is the scientific age. Polling is practised with scientific seriousness. Pollsters gather in conferences, exchange information and discuss techniques. Often, they have been remarkably accurate. Their authority comes from their record, which was dented in 1992 but not demolished.

Yet polling is not science. It is asking questions and hoping for truthful answers. In the past, some of these answers haven't been - that is more or less common ground.

We believe that an unknown proportion of Tory voters lied to pollsters about their intentions. We strongly suspect that among those who refused to answer there were more Conservatives. We know that some recent polls overstate the anti-Tory vote: one highly-publicised one included another question about how people voted in 1992, which demonstrated pretty conclusively that Neil Kinnock won and has therefore presumably been in power for years. (It's just that nobody's noticed yet.)

My point is only that if people both dislike the Conservatives and also suspect that they may vote for them, noses pinched, to preserve a modest but long-established recovery, that behaviour would be peculiarly difficult for pollsters to tease out. This is not a frank country. These voters will feel ambiguous, perhaps confused, even ashamed. And if they haven't quite confessed to the bathroom mirror, they are

unlikely to tell a pollster.

Though he didn't discuss the polls, this is essentially what my lunch guest thought was happening. He summed up the general mood



AndrewMarr

Forget polls. The election will be decided by ambiguous, confused, even ashamed

may regard them as only semi-serious - Westminster as farce - and actually vote on the basis of a subtly difvoters ferent agenda. If so, the more froth and turmoil in the papers about politics,

his party, combined with a sucaking, half-resentful acknowledgement that things were getting better, and the Government might

and the Government might be partly responsible. I sug-gest that quite a few people feel that way.

Then there is "agenda slide", a new term which describes the difference between what the political classes are interested in —

sleaze, constitutional ques-

tions, Brussels, intra-party

divisions, hairstyles - and

what the rest of the country

cares most about - pros-perity, safety, the environ-

ment and so on. The politi-

cal agenda connects with the popular one via the media. At times they can seem virtually identical:

sleaze dominates the head-

lines; Tory popularity sinks further. Ergo - the whole country thinks alike.

Except - er - it doesn't. However angry voters are about those headlines, they

These are, granted, impressions, not hard facts. But for me, they add up to a conviction that the election remains a closer call than many assume. It is the economy, stupid. But it is also politics, stupid. The choice is big. The game is wide open, and the rougher, hungrier

set of politicians will win. For the Tories, that means rediscovering discipline, and hiding their deep splits, while grabbing as much credit as possible for the recovery and painting Labour, in traditional fashion, as profligate and anti-patriotic federalists. If middle England, in particular, is feeling a touch more secure and prosperous, then even Blair could be made to seem a risk. These are gen-unely conservative folk.

For Labour, it also, unavoidably, means the politics of fear - attacking the Conservatives as a party that now wants, in its heart, to leave Europe altogether (note how the word "renegotiate" has become a suddenly fashionable battlecry for the right).

It also means a far more aggressive approach to the social agenda and political reform than we have heard yet; Blair needs some raw roughhouse politics to help him escape from the Cassandra-style bitching and trivia of recent weeks. If it isn't time for a real change,

it woo't be time to vote the Government ont. I still think Labour's joh the easier one and in the end, if they fight hard, that they are likelier to win. But this is a secretive, private nation. And in the past few weeks, there seems to me to have been a change in the mood, a sort of tremor in the air before the weather changes. In politics as elsewhere, it looks like a long and

If crime is a disease then this is the cure

n a visit to the eruresearch department of the Home Office, I asked them the only question that matters: what works to stop crime? Is it prison? Well, yes, up to a point, they said. (This is the Home Office, after all). If you increase the prison population by 25 per cent, you do get a 1 per cent. drop in crime. But that is ruinously expensive, so I asked what else might work. Nursery schools, they said - and pushed a piece of research across the table to me.

This research has been knocking around for years. Every-where you go, at education and crime conferences, you will hear it quoted. It knocks the breath out of people who have never seen it before. It knocks the socks off most other causes-ofcrime research because it is such a thorough piece of sociology. The High/Scope Parry Pres-

chool Study took a group of three- and four-year-olds from the poorest, most crime- and drug-ridden neighbourhoods in Michigan. It divided them in two. One lot got two years' intensive nursery education, the other didn't. Researchers then tracked all of the original group through the rest of their lives. (They are now nearly 40.) The difference hetween those who had the two years' special nurs-ery education and the group that didn't is phenomenal. The project started in 1962 in

Ypsilanti, Michigan. The latest check when the group was 27 found these results: the High/Scope children have half as many criminal arrests as the control group; they earn far more; nearly three times more own their own homes, marry and stay married longer; 20 per cent fewer have ever heen on social security. They will be traced and monitored again when they reach 40-if the project's founder, David Weikart, can raise the funds, because all along he bas struggled to get the money to keep mountoring these children. Everyone likes the results, no one wants to pay. What's new? Sociology is a pitifully poor relation of, say, health research and yet we want to know as many social answers.

David Weikart was in London this week visiting a British version of the High/Scope pro-ject, largely funded by Barna-dos and National Children's Homes, who use the methods for their nursery schemes in deprived areas. Of course we are suspicious of American gurus pedalling magie systems. But Weikart is a modest and



A nursery programme in a deprived area in the US demonstrates how to keep adults out of jail. Polly Toynbee talks to its founder

the High/Scope approach for children who have had too little attention at home. He says his method makes little longterm, measurable difference to children with good parents.

Starting from the premise that these children come from chaotic, unpredictable households, High/Scope teaches them how to think, analyse and structure their time - "Plan, Do, Review". Weikart is fighting a rear-guard action against the current reactionary fashion for more Chalk and Talk, more Sit Up and Shut Up teaching. What they learn hardly matters at all, he says. It does not last

what makes the difference to the rest of their lives.

Weikart's studies show that children who have a heavily academic nursery education emphasising the three Rs do far less well in the long run than those who have been taught ways of thinking rather than content. (Though any oursery schooling helps.) The trick is to make each child plan, think about and describe each activity they choose to do. The success of the scheme also depeods on bringing parents into the project, with at least 20 home visits a year.

Weikart is scathing about the

moderate man who eschews and it makes little impact on importance of 1Q tests, jargon. An educational psytheir future. Learning to think High/Scope improves the ehil-chologist by training, he devised about what they are doing is dren's 1Q score by some 25 points, as they enter primary school. But by the age of 10, the High/Scopers and those with no nursery education all have the same average scores. Yet the High/Scopers go on to do spec-tacularly better. Whatever IQ is, he does not find it a useful pre-

dictor of the qualities needed for social stability in later life. So for several decades we have had these results to mull over. What effect has it had? Weikart smiles wryly. Intensive nursery education is still only patchily provided. "But Michi-

indefinitely." Prison building is eating up all other budgets progressively, as it will in Britain, even though every dollar speni on High/Scope ehildren saved \$7 later in their lives oo crime and welfare. In Michigan, which funded the initial programme, 3,000 children are in High/Scope when, he estimates, some 25,000 severely deprived children a year are in need of it.

Governments have no idea of economie planning when it eomes to social projects, Weikart says. "If a company wants to build a new hotel, they don't wait until they have saved that mooey. They go out aod borrow it, knowing they will make profits to pay the mooey back. The same is true of nurseries and other preventative schemes. Borrow to invest now and reap the profits later. But

they refuse to think that way." Social problems are never treated like health problems. If some new medical cure arrives. even at great expense for a small number of sufferers, the NHS gives in to the clamour to provide it. But when the solution is not medical hut social, the policy-makers simply ignore is rarely anything like the same social evidence expensively gathered to bolster arguments for new medical treatments. Most good social schemes only just manage to scrape together funds for the project itself, living hand to mouth from year to year, with no extra money for long-term monitoring of results.

But if we were to redefine crime as a disease, we would think about it in a more constructive, problem-solving way. Imagine if mighty Royal Col-leges with highly paid and dis-tinguished consultants were in charge of curing various social sicknesses. Imagine a whole great establishment devoted to rooting out the causes of crime. researching the epidemiology and the cost effectiveness of varlous treatments with all the grandeur, status and fundin we give physical illness - then we might make some progress.
Since people are as worried

about crime as they are about health, a gigantic crime-husting social package should be Labour's priority for its manifesto. And the Tories, too, for that matter. Politicians have made nursery pledges in the past but not focusing on the need for expensive, intensive programmes for those children who are most likely to cost society dear in the future. But to do that gan is building two oew prisons would take borrowing or taxing every year instead, and has now to invest wisely for longplans to keep building them term savings.

Life's no joke in the lawyers' chamber of horrors

hat do you call 1,000 lawyers at the bottom of the ocean? Y A good start. What's the dif-ference between a dead lawyer on the road and a dead rat? The dead rat bas skid marks in front of it. Why can lawyers swim in shark-infested waters without danger of being eaten? Prolessional courtesy.

And so the jokes go on and on. The legal profession has spawned a com-edy industry. There are 70,000 pages of this poisonous wit on the Internet. all marks of public contempt for m'learned friends. And how they're hurting. Yesterday, Barbara Mills, Director of Public Prosecutions, faced with accusations that the solicitors she employs are miserable, offered an intriguing insight into more general trouble in chamhers. Her retorn amounted to a claim that since most lawyers are miserable, we shouldn't be too surprised if a few in her own legal corner, the Crown Prosecution Service, are also off colour. Some 80 per cent of solicitors in private practice are looking for a new job, Ms Mills told Radio 4's *Today* programme. A nation choked on its muesli.

How can it be that a profession appar-ently living on blank cheques can be in the doldrums? We never realised that the bewigged were so unhappy and such sensitive beings. (Why is it that many lawyers have broken noses? From chasing parked ambulances.) Have we, perhaps, been going a bit too far with the acid humour?

Apparently so, according to The Lunyer, a weekly newspaper, which polled its readers in the summer and found that 63 per cent of the respondents thought lawyers had a negative public image. Nearly nine out of 10 thought the profession was less respected than 20 years ago.

How is it that lawyers have come to be regarded as low life, sunk, as they are, down there with journalists and politicians in the public's esteem? li's mainly the fees. There is a really negative feelings about paying lawyers that doctors, for example, don't get, said one lawyer yesterday. "When you win or even if you lose, the client seems happy to pay. But as the months



M'learned friends are miserable, despite their fat fees. Jack O'Sullivan and Elizabeth Wine find out why

go by, and the bills arrive, you get this negative feeling from them." Such attinegative feeling from them. Such atti-tudes are not surprising to those of us who have to pay up. (What can a goose do, a duck can't, and a lawyer should? Stick his bill up his ass.)

Most lawyers will admit to other weaknesses. Some will concede, at least privately, that they are boring.
"My mother says it's the nature of the training," confessed one solicitor.
"When I'm telling a story, I give a dry, crusty resumé because I spend my day reducing vast amounts of material to a few salient facts. Whereas a normal person will tell you, 'She said this, and then he said that, and then she did this and so on. Though these accounts are ment for the King in Shakespeare's often inaccurate and no more inforHenry VI, Pan II, he declares his pri-

entertaining."

And then he explained the problem of confidentiality. "Lawyers can't talk about what they do in the office during the day. So unless I'm a terribly interesting chap, what the hell do I have to talk about? Add to that the fact that a lot of lawyers are phenomenally

pompous and we've got a problem." But the current state of depression apparently sweeping the Inns of Court and solicitors' offices across the country doesn't spring simply from public unpopularity. After all, lawyers. though respectable, have never been loved. When Dick discusses a replace-

ority: "The first thing we do, let's kill all the lawyers."

Many lawyers are fed up hecause the good old days of job security are over. "It used to be the case that if you had a law degree, especially one from Oxford or Cambridge, then doors opened," said one lawyer. "You were sure of a job. But in recent years, we have felt, for the first time, the chill of recession." In the early Nineties lawvers experienced unemployment, and though business has recovered, those used to privilege are still in

these days," said another. "We are being asked to market ourselves more aggressively. In the past, business to be a lawyer."

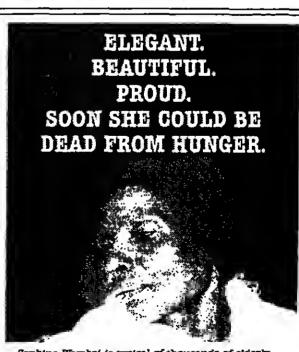
elients would stay with you for years unless something terrible went wrong. Now they are shopping around ruth-lessly. They might have close relauonships with three or four legal firms and play one off against the other. In the old days, clients would have been scared to ask at the hegin-ning for a quote. And they certainly wouldn't go off to another firm for another estimate and return to tell you they had a lower quote. All that's

changed.
"We're given billing targets. Firms expect you to produce a minimum number of hillahle hours work a day - maybe three or four m easy-going firms or six in the toughest outfits. You have to be great at glad-handing

"Younger lawyers are dissatisfied. It's harder to get a partnership. And people are wondering whether partoership is worth the trouble, becau of the responsibility. There is also the financial risk - some firms have gone bankrupt. And many of those who are ready to wait for partnership are frustrated with the managements of firms, which they can see don't have the managerial, marketing or PR skills that are needed in this more compet-

itive environment." All very sad. But many will recognise this as a snapshot of just about any professional group over the past decade struggling to adjust from cosy security to a risky and harder working

life, with some gaining great financial reward, others facing sudden failure. If the jokes are anything to go by, the public will have little sympathy. (How do you get a lawyer out of a tree? Cut the rope). Nor will the concerns of m'learned friends gain much credibility (How can you tell a lawyer is lying? His lips are moving.) The most likely outcome is that lawyers. like teachers and doctors, will get used to the harsher new world. And most recognise that it's wise to suffer in silence. "No one will tell you on the record that he'd like a different job, "Law is so much more competitive one lawyer said yesterday. "Clients



Sophina Wamboi is typical of thousands of elderly people living in atrocious conditions overseas right now. Living in a tiny, insanitary shack, she is struggling to survive on a handful of rice a day. Without hetp soon, she could dia.

Yet by sponsoring an alderly person such as Sophina for just \$10 a month, you could provide them with life-saving supplies of food, medicines and clothing . and help give them back the dignity

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Mr : Mrs . Miss : Ms	
Address	
Postcode	Tel.No
Return to : Helen Higgs, Adopt a Granny, Help the Ag FREEPOST, London EC18 13	
Or phone 0171 255 0255	Adopt a Grani

Alexander Kelly

Alexander Kelly was one of Britain's most eminent piano teachers, and one of its most loved. Early in his distinguished performing career he was made a professor at the Royal Academy of Music. For the next 30 years he made an enormous intpact on the generations of pianists who flocked to study with him there.

His first experience of the RAM had been as a 17-year-old, when a Caird scholarship enahled him to leave his native Edinburgh in 1946. He broke off his studies for National Service in 1949, resuming them two



years later. In addition to piano lessons with Harold Craxton he also learnt composition with

Lennox Berkeley.

The concert life that followed was wide-ranging both in the repertoire Kelly played and the places where he performed. He was passionate about the Classical period, and his Festival Hall dehut was in C.P.E. Bach under Beecham. He also played Beethoven's Diabelli Variations at the Wigmore Hall and at the Edinburgh Festival.

He hrought the same commitment to new music, giving many first performances both nationally and on tours to Eastern Europe, Asia and New Zealand. Scottish composers wision of music was generous. Lessons took in God, sex, pictures, poetry. (More books, this time cluttering up the piano.) He loathed playing that was dry.

Everyone knows that the

tional of nations, and therefore

one would expect them to be se-

cret believers in ways whereby

they can discover their future.

But there is no secret about it.

the majority of the population

regularly read their horoscopes

in the press. And just as the

modern press replaced the old

almanacs by printing astrolog-

ical horoscopes, so the gadget-

The most famous of French

astrologers was Madame Soleil.

It was several years after the

war, when her hat-making busi-

ness had collarsed and it was

necessary to support four chil-

dren, that she joined the 30,000

professional fortune tellers who

existed in France during the

1960s. She worked in fairs, un-

til in the 1960s she was suc-

cessful enough to require

permanent consulting rooms

in the Place du Commerce in

the 15th arrondissement of Paris.

But it was her first broadcast,

on 14 September 1970, that

brought her real fame. Her

voice which conjured up the

countryside, and her laughter

which made her everyone's

friend, were linked with an ef-

ficient directness. Everyone lis-

tened to ber, and her regulation

grew when, in 1971, President

Georges Pompidou, having

been asked a difficult question

by a Polish journalist, confessed

French claim to be the most ra- Madame Soleil."

Every opinion poll shows how traditional, she was very reli-

orientated Frenchman turns to about the famous people who

his Minitel in order to find out consulted her and who includ-

Piano Sonata was a favourite piece, and he also played works by Robert Crawford, Martin Dalby, David Dorward, Thea Musgrave and John Purser. Peter Wishart wrote a Piano Concerto as a wedding present for Alex Kelly and the cellist Margaret Moncrieff when they

married in 1957. Margaret also had pride of place among Alex's duo partners. His natural pianistic gifts combined with a gregarious personality and an outrageous sense of humour to make him an ideal chamber musician. The violinist Jean Harvey, the flautist William Bennett and the tenor Duncan Robertson were among the other artists be worked with, a line that ended, ouchingly, with another cellist,

his younger daughter Alison Moncrieff-Kelly.

Along with Kelly's other daughter, Catriona, Margaret and Alison were ex-officio members of the teaching team: producers of endless cups of tea, pourers of endless glasses of wine. To be taken on as a pupil was to be absorbed into the Kelly family. Together they created an atmosphere that welcomed and nurtured, a household of ideas (you had to clear away the books to make room for the cups of tea) that became home from home for decades of students.

As a teacher Kelly had the great gift of finding the good in his pupils. The glass was always half full, never half empty. However anxious or depressed you were when you went in to a piano lesson, you came out playing better. And more often than not, laughing. Like every-thing else about Alex Kelly, his

Madame Soleil

She was equally successful

when she appeared on televi-

sion. Her methods were modern.

She worked with a computer.

But her pronouncements were

gious and she professed her be-lief in God's will. This was

probably why in 1991 she mar-

ried a man who was 19 years her

junior. But apparently, even to

him, she remained discreet

bly, Brigitte Bardot perhaps.

But, although she claimed

that she had discovered her par-

ticular gifts before the age of 10,

she had made no use of them

and knew poverty and hardship

at many periods of her life.

However, in 1930 she joined the

staff of a newspaper, La Volon-té, which had been founded by

a radical deputy, Albert Dubar-

ry, and which employed many

talented and important writers.

one of whom, André Tardieu,

became Prime Minister. By

1931 Duharry was receiving

money from the infamous

Alexandre Stavisky, whose

crooked business deals and ap-

parent immunity from arrest

created the higgest scandal

his body was discovered in a vil-

la near Chamonix. It was offi-

cially said that Stavisky had

committed suicide. But many

By 1934 a warrant was out for his arrest when, on 7 January,

since the Dreyfus affair.

in particular have much to Everything had to say somethank him for. Thomas Wilson's thing, everything had to have

The very antithesis of a career teacher, Kelly had no interest whatever in empire-building. His was an empire that spread of its own accord. And while his appointment in 1984 as Head of Keyboard marked the peak of his career at the RAM, it was the contact with students in his day-to-day teaching that con-tinued to give him the greatest satisfaction. Those students have enriched British musical life: Michael Dussek, Vanessa Latarche, David Owen Norris. Jonathan Plowwright and the late Alan Gravill were all Kelly pupils. He cared less, though, about the technical excellence of whoever was playing to him than their musical integrity. He was equally prepared to be moved by a child or an

enthusiastic amateur. Theoretically, Alex Kelly re-tired in 1992. He retired in name alone, throwing himself into ever more examining and adjudicating, constitutionally incapable of refusing anyone who asked him for help. His influence extended far beyond his own pupils. Classic FM hroadcast a series of his masterclasses, and the Caird Scholarships, the Associated Board and the Scottish International Piano Competition all benefited from his wisdom. You sat beside him in any official capacity at your peril, so monstrous were his jokes, so scurrilous his scribbled notes. As a colleague he showed the same qualities that marked his teaching and his life; warmth charity and generosity.

Ian Burnside

Alexander Kelly, musician: born Edinburgh 30 June 1929; Pro-fessor, Royal Academy of Music 1960-94, Head of Keyboard 1984-92; married 1957 Margaret Moncrieff (two daughters); died London 23 October 1996.

by those who feared be would

reveal matters that would

had hired the Chamonix villa in

her own name, although doing

this for her paper. Almost

certainly she knew the whereabouts of Stavisky when every-

one was looking for him. It

seems likely that she knew the

truth of his death. She admitted

that she had once had in her pos-

session vital documents. But she

claimed she had destroyed them.

Soleil was her real name. It was

appropriate for someone who

sought to illuminate the fu-

ture. Historians think of it as ap-

propriate for someone who could have illuminated some of

Germaine Lucie Soleil, astrologer.

born Paris 18 July 1913; married

twice; died Paris 27 October 1996.

Douglas Johnson

Few realised that Madame

It was Madame Soleil who

incriminate them.



Red Chaplin': Cherrill with Chaplin in City Lights, 1931.

Virginia Cherrill

A frail blonde with no previous acting experience, Virginia Cherrill became part of screen history with her first film, the silent classic City Lights in which her portrayal of the blind flower seller whose sight is restored by an operation paid for by a nondescript tramp (Char-lie Chaplin) has continued to ever since the film's premiere in 1931. Her subsequent film roles were less distinguished (her voice was not ideal for

sound) and, after a brief marriage to Cary Grant, she came to England, where, throughout the war years, she was the Countess of Jersey.

Born on a farm in Carthage, Illinois, in 1908, she moved to California in 1928 after a disastrous early martiage to a Chicago lawyer. Her college friend Sue Carol bad become a wbo put her into three 1931 resuccessful film actress and ing in movies. Reports on her meeting with Chaplin vary most indicate that they met at a boxing match, hut Chaplin states that he had seen her earlier on the beach where she had hluntly asked, "When am I go-ing to work for you?" Though he thought "her shapely form in a bathing suit did not inspire the idea of her playing such a spir-itual part as the hlind girl", he

vice to look inwardly at me hut not see me". The shooting of the film was stormy - Chaplin, the perfectionist, took five days to capture one 70-second sequence, where the tramp first encounters Cherrill who, believing him to be a millionaire, asks him to buy a flower. Concerned about the impact sound was having on cinema, the tense Chaplin had little patience with Cherrill's lack

tested her and found that "to my

surprise, she had the faculty of

looking blind, following my ad-

Described by the gossip columnist Louella Parsons as "Hollywood's greatest beauty", she was an inveterate party-goer, necessitating careful make-up for the film cameras the next morning. At one point, Chaplin tested other actresses with the intention of replacing Cherrill, hut none had the poignant quality she was bringing to the role.

After over a year in the mak-

ing City Lights opened to great acclaim and, though a music track and some sound effects were Chaplin's only conces-sion to the craze for sound, it made an enotificous profit. Despite the accolades given Cherrill, Chaplint had no desire to work with ber again ("I never liked Chaplin and be never liked me", she later said), and she signed a contract with Fox, leases, Girls Demand Excitement (with a young John Wayne), John Ford's The Brat, and a sunporting role in the Janet Gaynor musical Delicious.

She was hriefly engaged to the acrohatic dancer Buster West and to the millionaire William Rhinelander Stewart before meeting Cary Grant at a party. "I fell in love with her almost the moment she walked



in," he said later. The couple were married in February 1934 but before the end of the year they were separated. Grant later stated: "My possessiveness and fear of losing her brought about the very condition I feared: the loss of her." (They remained friends and over 30 years later, when Grant was divorcing Dyan Cannon, Cherrill rang him to say; "If you want a character witness, I'll come right down there and give you pne.") Cherrill resumed her career in Britain with two minor thrillers starting James Ma-son, Late Extra (1935, Mason's first film) and Troubled Waters (1936), which was to be her last

In 1937 she married the ninth Earl of Jersey, and as Lady Jer-sey undertook charity work during the Second World War. The marriage ended in 1946 and 1950, they settled in Santa Barbara, California, where their 48year marriage lasted until Cherrill's death.

"I was no great shakes as an actress," she once said, but ber final close-ups in City Lights in which, her sight restored, she fails to recognise the tramp as her benefactor until, giving him a flower, she touches his hand, moved the writer and critic James Agee to state: "It is enough to shrivel the heart to see, the greatest piece of acting and the highest moment in

· Tom Vallance

Virginia Cherrill, actress: born Carthage, Illinois 12 April 1908: married 1927 Irving Adler (mar-riage dissolved 1928), 1934 Cary Grant (marriage dissolved 1935) 1937 George, ninth Earl of Jersey (marriage dissolved 1946). 1948 Florian Martini; died Santa Barbara, California 14 November 1996.

Professor Bryan Keith-Lucas

politics of local government and for his ability to help es-tablish academic and social communities - first at Nuffield College, Oxford, and secondly at Darwin College, at the University of Kent. Above all, he had an infectious enthusiasm for the study of politics, which he communicated to students who included Alan Beith MP and Professor George Jones of the London School of Forcessia London School of Economics. From his background came his intellectual curiosity and a competitive edge. Born in 1912,

Keith-Lucas was the youngest son of Dr Keith Lucas FRS, who invented the first aeronautical compass, and both his brothers compass, and both his prothers
went on to become professors.
Although by conviction a
pacifist and although a member
of a reserved occupation,
Keith-Lucas volunteered to

serve in the Second World War. He enlisted as a private in the Buffs, becoming (as he used to put it) a "temporary, acting (unpaid) corporal" before go-ing on to Sandhurst. He served the rest of the war with the Sherwood Foresters, in which he became a major, was mentioned in despatches, and was the sole staff officer to survive the Volumo Crossing in Italy. A solicitor by profession, Keith-Lucas moved from work

in Nottingham to a lectureship in politics and local government at Oxford in 1948. There he became immersed in a course which was designed to prepare colonial officers for the transition to independence of the British colonies. As a result, he became a member of several constitutional commissions on independence, for Sierra Leone, Mauritius and Fiji. Seminal though these commissions were in the evolution of independence, in retrospect Keith-Lucas was critical of their lack of awareness of the importance of tribal divisions in the make-

np of the new nation states. Yet it was the unfashionable area of local government which he made his own. Nobody could have believed that local government could be interesting and exciting until attending one of his lectures. His professional study of local government was matched by his passionate belief in grass-roots politics. For him the parish council was a fundamental feature of democracy, and to use the word "parochial" in any derogatory sense was to offend. These thring the Second World War.

The marriage ended in 1946 and two years later Cherrill married a flying ace, Florian Martini. In and Parish Government 1894 1994 (1994), of both of which he was joint author, and Redlich and Hirst's History of Local Government in England (1970), of which be was editor.

> Senior Lecturer, he became the first Bursar of Nuffield College in 1957. With its graduate student body and its system of Visiting Fellows (such as Edward Heath), Keith-Lucas was in his element in pioneering a mixture of practical and academic politics. The intellectual challenge of the courses was complemented by the hospitality that he and his wife Mary extended to their guests, especially at Sunday lunch par-ties. Outside the academic life,

largest US cable television com-

Bryan Keith-Lucas had a distinguished academic career, notable for his mastery of the

City Housing Committee When he moved to the new University of Kent at Canterhury in 1964. Keith-Lucas brought something of the atmosphere of the Oxford high table to Cantarhum As Barrelland table to Canterbury. As Pro-fessor of Politics and Local Government he set up a successful and popular department and recruited a team of talented young academics. At the same time, as the innugural Master of Darwin College be realised the ideal of a college community. He relished the social give-and-take of guest evenings, and was skilled in social give-and-take of guest evenings, and was skilled in anecdote. But, even more important, he made sure that no-body was left out of the life of the college, and was always attentive to personal concerns. He was perhaps most at home when entertaining undergradwas pernaps must at none
when entertaining undergraduates to meet the University
Chancellor, Jo Grimond.
Keith-Lucas enjoyed running the university's programme
of withing speakers, and con-

of visiting speakers, and con-fided that it was less difficult to obtain a speaker than an audi-ence. After his retirement from



the university in 1977, he enthe university in 1977, he enjoyed an Indian summer as a teacher at the King's School, Canterbury, where with characteristic vigour he instituted mock elections and a parliament. He was appointed CBE in 1983 for his work as Chairman 1983 for his man of the National Association of Local Councils and for his work with the Hansard Society.

It is his warmth of character and enjoyment of life that remain Keuh-Lucas's most enduring and endearing charac-teristics. A country walk around his beloved retirement village of Wye was a memorable experience, the conversation flowing around local history and high politics. The quintessential English liberal intellectual, with an infectious enthusiasm for life levels, he gave a legacy for which generations of students can be grateful.

Gerald Hattee

Barton Lambon (1)
Control of the Con

In addition to his work as a Bryan Keith-Lucas, political scientist: born I August 1912; Assistant Solicitor, Kensington Council 1938-46, Nottingham 1946-48; Senior Lecturer in Local Govemment, Oxford University 1948-65: Faculty Fellow, Nuffield College, Oxford 1950-65, Domestic Bursar 1957-65, Leverhadme Emeritus Fellow 1983-96; Professor of Government, University of Kent at Canterbury 1965-77 (Emeritus), Master of Darwin College 1970-74; CBE 1983; married 1946 Mary Hardwicke (one ties. Outside the academic life, son, two daughters); died Carl-he served from 1950 to 1965 as terbury, Kent 7 November 1996.

Bob Magness, businessman, died Charlottesville, Virginia 15 Inc, with 14m subscribers, from a two-man operation run from

Having regard to the evi-

Births, Marriages & Deaths

DEATHS

BOATENG: K.A. "Boat", FRCS, sud-dealy, on 15 November 1990, aged 50 years, devoted husband and lather, who will be sally missed. Funeral ser-toce Tuesday 26 November at All Saints' Church, Rolfey, Horsham, at tpm. Flowers and enquiries to Free-man Brothers. Worth Parade, Hor-sham. Sussex. 01403 254590. All friends and colleagues welcome at the

HERBERT: David Mark, publisher, beloved husband of Brenda and fa-ther of Charlie and Emma, quietly al home on 18 November 1996. Funeral service at St Peter de Beauvoir. De Beauvoir Road. London N1, at 12 noon on Theaday 20 November. Family flowers; donations if wished to St

HINDS: On t3 November, suddenly, a HINDS: On 13 November, suddenly, at home, William George, aged 53, dearly loved husband of Marion and dear father of Katie and Frances, Requiem Mass at 81 Peter's Church, Winchester, on Friday 22 November at 12.15pm. Enquiries to Jno Steel & Son, 01962 844044.

incements for Gazette BIRTHS MARRIAGES & DEATHS should be scal in writing to the Gazette Editor sent in writing to the Gazette Editor. The independent, I Causain Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 50L, telephoned to 0171-293 2011 or fixed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at 56.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette anotancements issuet be submitted in writing (or fixed) and are charged of £10 a line, VAT extra. They should be accompanied by a daytime telephone number. Birthdays

that he could not foretell the fu- claimed that he had been shot

Mr Michael Alexander, explo-Mr Michael Alexander, explorer and writer, 76; Mr Denis Allport, former Chairman, Metal Box, 74; Lord Archer of Sandwell QC, former MP, 70; The Hon Hugh Astor, former deputy chairman of the Times, 76; Mr Peter Badge, Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, 65; Mr Alistair Cooke, controllist, and broadenster. journalist and broadcaster, 88: pour aussi and broadcaster, see Brigadier Bernard Cowey, Welsh rugby international, 85; Miss Alexan-dra Danilova, choreographer and ac-tress, 90; Sir Alan Goodison, former novelist, 73; Miss Dukie Gray, actress and author, 76; Mr Aubrey Jones, former government minister, 85; Mr Pi-ara Khabra MP. 72; Mr Johnny Leach, former lable-tennis champi-on, 74; Mr James McPherson, Lord-Licutemant, Grampian Region, 69; Sir Richard Morris, former chairman, Brown and Root, 71; Sir David Price, former MP, 72: Mr Arthur Rees, former Chief Constable, Denbighshire and Staffordshire, Welsh rugby international, 84; Mr Wilfred Wooller, cricketer and Welsh rugby international, 84.

Anniversaries

Births: Paulus Potter, animal painter. 1625; Thomas Chanerina, poet, 1752; Friedrich Heinrich Himmel harpsichordist and composer, 1765; Sir Samuel Cunard, shipowner, 1787; William Chappell, music publisher, 1809; Edwin Powell Hubble, astronomer, 1889; Gene Tierney, actress, 1920. Deaths: Sir Christopher Hatton, Lord Chancellor, 1591; Henry Francis Lyte, writer of hymns ("Abide With Me"), 1847; Anton Grigoryevich Rubinstein, pianist and composer, 1894; John Rushworth Jellicoe, first Earl Jellicoe, admiral of

the fleet, 1935; Ellen Anderson Gholson Glasgow, novelist, 1945. On this day, Britain declared war on the Netherlands, 1780; Beethoven's open Fidelio was first performed, Vi-enna 1805; Venezuela was declared to be independent of Spain by Simon Bolivar, 1818; Charles Stewart Rolls and Frederick Henry Royce combined to form the firm of Rolls Royce, 1906; a republic was declared in Ukraine, 1917; after five years of blackmut, lights were switched on in London in Piccadilly, the Strand and Fleet Street, 1944; the War Crimes trial at Nuremberg began, 1945; Princess Elizabeth married the Duke of Edinburgh, 1947; Spowdonia was declared a National Park, 1951; after the Soviet Union agreed in withdraw llyushin bombers from Cuba, the United States lifted the blockade, 1962; President Sadat of Egypt visited Israel for peace talks 1977. Today is the Feast Day of St Bernward, St Dasius, St Edmund the Martyr, St Felix of Valois, St Maxentia of Beauvais and St Nerses of

Lectures

National Gallery: Gregory Martin, "Rubens (iii): Rubens and other Northern Landscape Painters of his Victoria and Albert Museum: Alan Derbyshire, "The Examination and

Conservation of the Raphael Cartocas", 2.30pm. Tate Gallery: Richard Cork talks about the Turner Prize, 1pm. Royal Society, London SW1: Dr Michael Bagshaw, The Human Fac-tor in Aviation: the weakest or the strongest link?", 5,30pm. King's College London, Strand, London WC2: Dr Ladislav Kvasz, The

History of Modern Geometry in the Light of Wittgenstein's Picture The-nry of Meaning", 5.15pm.

Stirling University (Robbins Lec-ture): Sir Christopher Ball, "More Means Different", 1.30pm.

of commitment.

Ministry of Defence Earl Howe, Under-Secretary of State for Defence, and Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Graydon, Chief of the Air day evening at Admiralty House, London SW1, also attended by the Air Force Board. Among those pre-

The Duke of Grafton; Lord Donoughne; The Vety Rev Michael Mayne; Sir Peter Cazalet; Mr John Kemp-Weich; Mr Robert Ayling; Mr Jonathan Holborow; Mr Oavin Lyali; Mr Col-

University appointments Mr Marrack Goulding, in be War-den of St Antony's College, Oxford.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS
The Queen attends the Royal Concert in aid of the blusschan's Benevotent Fund at the Royal Albert Hall, London SW7. The Frince of Walter opens the Discovering Eye Enthibition at the Mall Galeries, London SW1. The Princest Royal opens the new Headwarten of North of Scotland Webster Authority, Reachwood Businest Park, Inghes, Inventes; water Remassie Schood, Beesly, faverness-thire, Princess Margaret, Patron, mitends a reception grown by the Yuttery and Glass Tudes' Benevotent Institution at Princers Hall, London SCA. The Duchess of Glassester opens McBurry Lodge at the Royal Hamphiter County Hospital, Waschester, and as Patron, the Bulean, Rust, open Pages I and II of Cedar Park, Enhann Alsaeria, Haupshine, Princers Alexandra autenda n Diamer to be given by the Stitch Montecath Society at the

Changing of the Guard The Household Cavalry Mounted Region mounts the Queen's Lafe Goard at Horse Goa Ham; Iss Battalon Welsh Gangis mounts Sikh's expulsion would breach human rights European Court of Human

Rights; 15 November 1996

The prohibition in article 3 of

the European Convention on Human Rights against the use of "torture or inhuman or degrading punishment" was absolute and fundamental, and applied to a person suspected of terrorist activities as much as to anyone else. Whatever the evidence against him, such a person could not be deported if to do so would subject him to vinlations of article 3 in the receiving state.

The European Court of Human Rights ruled, by 12 votes to 7, that the deportation of Karamjit Singh Chahal would violate article 3 and, unanimously, that there had also been violations by the UK of articles 5.4 and 13 of the Convention in his case. Article 5.4 provided:

Everyone who is deprived of his lib-erty by arrest or detention shall be entitled to take proceedings by which the lawfulness of his detention shall be decided speedily by a court and his release ordered if the detention is not lawful.

By article 13,

Everyone whose rights and freedoms as set forth in this Convention are violated shall have an effective remedy before a national authority . . .

LAW REPORT

izen, entered the UK illegally in 1971 but in 1974 was granted indefinite leave to remain. On a visit to the Punjah in 1984 he became involved in organising passive resistance in support of a Sikh homeland. He was arrested and tortured by the Punjab police. On his return to the UK he became a prominent figure in the affairs of

In August 1990 the Home Secretary decided to deport Mr Chahal on grounds of national security and the international fight against terrorism. He had been detained in custody ever since. His application for political asylum was refused.

Because of the national security elements of the case, Mr Chahal had no right of appeal to an independent tribunal, but on 10 July 1991 his case was considered by an advisory panel. He was not told of the evidence against him, was not allowed to he represented by a lawyer and was not told of the panel's advice to the Home Secapplication for judicial review India

The applicant, an Indian citfailed because the courts did not have access to the national security evidence against Mr Chahal and so could not assess whether the refusal of asylum was irrational or perverse.

> The European Court of Human Rights said article 3 enshrined one of the most fundamental values in democratic societies. The court was aware of the difficulties faced by states in protecting their communities from terrorist violence. But even in these circumstances, the Convention prohibited in absolute terms torture or inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, irrespective of the person in question. This pro-

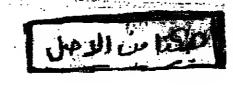
expulsion cases. It was therefore unnecessary to consider the UK government's untested, but no doubt bona fide, allegations about Mr Chahal's terrorist activities and his threat to national security. The only relevant question was whether substantial grounds retary, who signed a deporta-tion order on 25 July 1991. An that he would be ill treated in had been shown for believing

dence, corroborated from various sources, of serious human rights violations both in the Punjab and elsewhere in India, the court was not persuaded that assurances by the Indian government, were adequate to guarantee Mr Chahai's safety. It followed that his deportation would violate article 3.

As to article 5.4, the use of confidential material might be unavoidable where national security was at stake, but that did not mean the national attathorities could be free from effective control by domestic. courts. It was possible to employ techniques which accommodated legitimate security concerns about the nature and sources of intelligence information and yet accorded the individual a substantial hibition was equally absolute in measure of procedural justice.

As to article 13, given the fundamental importance of the prohibition in article 3, an effective remedy for Mr Chahal's complaint required independent scrutiny of his claim that he would be ill treated if deported to India. The lack of such scrutinty in Mi Chahal's case violated article

Paul Magrath, Barrister.



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business & city

BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

Bonuses soar to £315m in securities trading firms despite danger signals on rising costs

Bonuses paid by Stock Exchange member firms to employees soared by almost £100m to a record £315m in the year to June, as a booming stock market lined the pockets of market-makers and brokers.

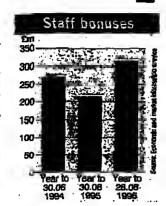
Stock Exchange figures released yesterday, covering 250 member firms, confirmed widespread reports of huge rewards throughout the City as business volumes and profitability shot up.

Profits made by the Exchange's members more than quadrupled compared with the previous 12 months to £719m before tax - a rise of 334 per cent - with a record £338m in the first quarter of 1996.

The figures give a rare insight into the financial industry's bonuses and profit-sbaring since most of the rest of the City

does not compile similar data. But many other City businesses have been sharing this year in payouts that are back to

Costs of stock exchange firms



and profit-sharing in Stock Exchange firms averaged 22 per cent of staff costs, but hit a record of 30 per cent in the second quarter of this year compared with the long-term average of 17 per cent.

The gravy train is known to have reached fund managers.

the levels of the 1980s boom years and are probably comparable with those in the securities market. In the year to June, bonuses

> What the Exchange called the "vibrant" market of 1995-96 contrasted with the previous year when there was a £308m

bonuses and profit sbare to £315m in the year to this June compares with a decline of 21 per cent in the year to June spite the bonanza of the last year. The first half of 1996 saw 1995, when the total paid out the first significant fall in cap-But although profits have ital employed, which the Exsoared, the Exchange report change blamed on restructuring showed that the return on capin the industry and the impact of the European Capital Adeital made by firms in the stock market was surprisingly poor. quacy Directive.

The report said: "Although the absolute financial performance of member firms has if firms had not reduced the cluding salaries and bonuses been impressive, it is clearly less so when compared to the amount of capital they em-

The long-term average return on capital is only 6 per cent, and despite recent favourable conthan ever by the rewards for ditions, the modest return over the past year would be lower still staff. Overall staff costs in- structuring through mergers and

amount of capital employed". Other costs, such as running buildings and services and charges made between companies, have fallen, showing that the performance of Exchange businesses is being driven more

have been under better control, with a 9 per cent increase.

The Exchange report on member firms' financial performance said that the bonus and profit-sharing levels reflected the "benign market conditions", the entry of new firms and re-

acquisitions of existing firms. With 70 per cent of staff costs fixed, and with staff representing the largest single element of costs, revenue is highly sensitive to dealing profit which recorded a "spectacular" growth of 59. per cent, more than twice the 28 per cent growth in fees.

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Customs ordered to repay £35m VAT

The High Court yesterday defund about £35m that had been paid in error.

hailed by accountants as great news for the husiness community, which had been waging a campaign against the Governimposing a time limit on claims. years, in line with the period that applies to Customs officials investigating taxpayers' affairs.

However, though Customs is not expected to appeal against the judgment, it inmediately made clear that the taxpayers' victory may be shortlived becruse it still intends 10 include year cap in next week's Budget. Though the organisations -

livered a hlow to the Customs including the mail-order com-& Excise over its increasingly panies GUS and Kay & Co and acted illegally in refusing to re- mediate payment of the mon ey, Customs indicated that it would seek to claw back the sum The hard-hitting ruling was once the proposals become law, in about three weeks.

The case slems from a ruling by the VAT Tribunal earlier this month that - though Customs ment's anempts to reduce its ex-posure to large VAT refunds by claims going back several years were valid because the cap had Most advisers accept the need not yet been approved by Parfor some limit and propose six liament. Since the tribunal could not direct Customs to pay back the money, taxpayers were urged to issue writs against the

organisation. However, the issue goes back much further, to a spate of cases earlier this year that raised the spectre of the Government

proposals to introduce a three- in VAT refunds to such businesses as retailers operating interest-free credit deals and operators of company car fleets. The rulings came shortly af-

exchange dealers and even senior backroom staff, who are

much sought after, and are often now on similar compensation packages to those awarded

to the high profile dealers in the

There have been regular disclosures over the last year of

multi-million pound earnings

packages awarded to City staff, dwarfing most of the so-called fat cats in industry.

This has been fuelled by a

merry-go-round of staff

Deutsche Morgan Grenfell of-

fering to guarantee bonuses to

entice new staff to their ex-

staff costs are rising far faster

than any other costs, with bonuses and profit-sharing repre-

senting the biggest part of the

increase and creaming off a

substantial part of the rising

decline in pre-tax profits. The 46 per cent increase in

and firms have been withdraw-

ing capital from the industry de-

As a result of the payouts,

panding operations.

s, with firms such as

front office.

tough policy on value added tax the drinks group Allied ter the revelation that the ap-collection by ruling that il had Domecq will be entitled to improximately £43hn in VAT received by the Government in the financial year to lbe end of March 1996 was significantly less than had been expected. In an attempt to give greater certainty to the Treasury's rev-

enues, Customs & Excise announced in July that any business which discovered it had overpaid VAT could only go hack three years rather than claim an unlimited refund, in some cases going back to the introduction of the tax in 1973.

Since then, Customs has been refusing refunds of amounts paid more than three years earlier because "it would waste business time and public resources if the department were to refund such money only to having to pay billions of pounds claw the money back."



Given a free hand: Gerry Robinson of Granada

Granada launches hotel sales

Mathew Horsman

Granada, the leisure and media conglomerate, yesterday launched the long-awaited disposal of its Exclusive Hotels. with the sale of the Hyde Park Hotel in London for £86m to Mandarin Oriental International, a unit of Singaporebased Jardine Matheson.

The sale, on the eve of its fullday, marks the first step toward mior executive. The sale is ex- against a hackdrop of lowselling all 17 Exclusives, inher- pected to be completed by early interest rates, and have given

this year. The rest of the port-folio, which will be sold singly probably to a range of Par Eastfolio, which will be sold singly or in small units, is expected to generate £900m, which will be used to pay down Granada's of disposals was due, analysts

But company insiders cau-tioned against expectations that to get the best prices we can, and

ern, European and US buyers. The relatively leisurely pace

said, lo Granada's desire to get the highest prices it can at a time when several high-profile hotels the disposal programme would be accelerated. "We are looking the market. Moreover, the stock market has been unbothered by

ited by Granada when it won its next year, and will see such land-Gerry Robinson, the chairman, £3.9bn takeover of Forte early marks as the Westbury and the plenty of leeway in tackling the plenty of leeway in tackling the

disposals programme.

The Hyde Park, which will be renamed the Mandarin Oriental Hyde Park, boasts 185 rooms and had an operating profit in the year ending 31 January of £4.7m. Mandarin said yesterday that the acquisition would be earnings-enhancing by the end of next year.

The hotel disposal pro-

Takeover talk lifts London Electricity

Chris Godsmark

Business Correspondent Takeover speculation engulfed

London Electricity yesterday following reports that Entergy, the US utility, was preparing to mount a £1.2bn hid.

London is one of only five remaining regional power sup-pliers still independent out of six years ago. Two of the five, Northern and East Midlands, are already the subject of takeover hids.

The speculation boosted London's share price 28.5p to 665p as rumours about Entergy's intentions switched from Yorkshire Electricity. Shares in Yorkshire fell 7p to 739.5p while Southern Electric also 12 at the time of privatisation dropped 4p to 702.5p.

ing a similar demolition of their

Both London and Entergy re-fused to comment on the share price move. "All we can say is what we always say, that we comment on speculation, a Lon-

don spokeswoman said. The reports from the US had claimed Entergy, based in New Orleans, had singled out an unnamed UK bid target which closely resembled London. The reports suggested a

Entergy has made no secret in central London. The group is known to have engaged mer-chant bankers Morgan Stanley. tralia.

formal offer would put a price With 2.2 million customers tag of £7 on each share in the and revenues last year of \$6.5bn (£3.9bn) Entergy is one of the largest US utility firms. It has of its intention to make further expanded overseas in recent investments in Britain. It already years, investing across South has a joint venture with BP to America, in Hong Kong and build a large gas-fired power sta-tion near Hull and has an office than \$1hn for the company than \$1hn for the company which supplies electricity to .: customers in Melbourne, Aus-

remuneration will be made by

the purchase of Westcountry

Television this week, for a sum

believed to be between £75m and

£80m. The acquisition will be

City fines should be big enough to hurt'

Peter Rodgers

A huge increase in fines for City cheats and the firms for which they work was proposed last might by Lord Runciman, deputy chairman of the Securities and Investments Board and former chairman of the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice.

He said times should be big enough to hurt and "since some of the players are very big. some of the fines should be very hig indeed".

The power to fine should be extended to include repayment victims of abuse, as well as the

ability to apply to civil courts to fine outside offenders who are not within the regulators' remit.

Lord Runciman, in a speech to the Securities Institute in London, defined cheats as those who commit what are usually regarded as technical offences or lapses of judgement which were actually "calculated irresponsihility" and not as innocuously

technical as they were made out. Other types of chearing involved "deliberately uncorrected misinformation," and those who specialise in driving a coach and horses through loopholes and cutting corners. He made a distinction be-

Source: FT Information

tween cheats and crooks, who be said should be dealt with by the criminal law.

Lord Runciman said one of the flaws of the Financial Services Act was that the SIB, the lead regulator, had no power to fine, unlike the junior regulators hat reported to it. husiness where the offence was
He demanded much greater committed." that reported to it.

use of "naming and shaming" as a punishment, by listing offenders publicly, and he said it was another anomaly that SIB found it hard to do this under the present legislation.

Lord Runciman called for tougher powers to expel cheats completely from the markets, tentially nefarious" characters

saying "some might say that such as shadow directors, bul-banishment for life is a lot lying shareholders, pseudo conlying shareholders, pseudo con-sultants and "even, perhaps, the more serious than being condemned to a few months of manipulating spous For certain types of misconwatching television in a comfortable open prison before reduct, naming and shaming could deter offenders from riskturning to a long and lucrative career in the same sector of

reputations again; potential of-fenders would also be deterred Regulators should be given when they saw the unpleasant powers to prevent serious experiences of those whose repcheats from continuing to pracutations had been tarnished. tise, whether or not they were authorised to carry out investment business under the act.

There was a final group of miscreants be called charlatans, who are not deliberately cheat-They should also have the ing hut are not fit to be trusted power to pursue chusive hut "powith other peoples' money or to give investment advice.



Lord Runciman: Called for a rise In fines for City cheats

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CURRENCIES



a board committee in due course, the company has said. Lord Hollick, chief executive of the combined companies, is widely viewed as the The Stock Exchange has revised to its rules on company directors, in the wake of last week's selected leak to the Financial widely viewed as the prime ar-Times about a reduced role for chitect of United's strategy United News & Media's chairwhich saw the £592m acquisition man, Lord Stevens. of Blenheim, the exhibitions According to the new regucompany, and the purchase of a stake in ITV company HTV lation, entered under clause 16.7 of the official Listing Rules. United is expected to clinch

Mathew Horsman

down on leaks

companies "must notify the Company Announcements Office without delay (by the end of the business day following the decision) when ... any important functions or executive responsibilities of a director are Had it been in effect, the rule change, revealed in the Inde-

pendent last week, would have obliged United News & Media to issue a statement about Lord Stevens' move to a part-time role starting next spring, which will see cuts in both his salary and his expenses. The Stock Exchange said yesterday that the rule was officially in place, and would be carefully enforced. Lord Stevens has taken a less active role in the management of United News & Media since the merger of the company with Lord Hollick's MAI earlier this year. But his salary, which stood at £510,000 a year at the

time of the merger, has yet to be cut. A decision about his new

seen as a step towards creating a southern England and Wales ITV giant, taking in Westcountry, HTV and United's own ITV licences, Anglia and Meridian WATERPROOF WINDPROOF BREATHABLE





Dangers in the City's runaway gravy train

verybody knows that the City pays it-self too much. What is not generally of this extraordinary gravy train, for it isn't self too much. What is not generally Jappreciated, is that the very high rates of bonus enhanced remuneration securities firms pay their staff are almost certainly not justified by the profits and return on capi-lal they earn. Indeed, if those who pay them-selves so much in the City were to find such runaway excess in the ordinary commercial and industrial companies they invest in and analyse, they would rightly run a mile, thinking this symptomatic of massive man-

agement failure.

And yet that is precisely what the latest numbers on the financial performance of stock exchange member firms show. Boosted by big boouses, the trend in staff costs continues to motor on upwards at a brisk pace. Admittedly they are oot yet as high as they were at the peak of the last bull market towards the end of 1993, but don't forget that most organisations have downsized by any-thing up to 20 per cent since then. Furthermore, honuses for the year to the end of last June were at record levels with every prospect of moving higher still this year.

Other costs have meanwhile been cut back quite sharply with the result that overall costs have only increased year on year quite mar-ginally by 1 per cent. It ought to be clear what is going on here. Staff are in effect gobbling op all the efficiency gains being made in these firms through enhanced pay and bonuses. The oddest thing about it is the apparent willingness of those who own as if the returns even in present market conditions are that remarkable.

If they were, then the owners would perhaps be justified in sharing h around a bit. But they are not. As the Stock Exchange report concludes "The long-term average return is only six per cent and despite recent favourable conditions, the modest return of the past year would be lower still if firms in aggregate had oot reduced the amount of capital employed. Some firms will be doing better than that, of course, but on the whole this doesn't look like the sort of business you want to be in, not as an

investor m any case. Now if you are an employee, it is a dif-ferent matter, for the astonishing irony is that modern day securities firms actually seem to be closer in terms of who they serve to worker cooperatives than the corporations most of them are supposed to be. Perhaps before preaching to the rest of us about capital being a scarce commodity, the impor-tance of keeping wages under control and all the rest of that annoying but only too true free market guff, the City ought to think first about setting its own house in order. Some

Small fire in the Channel Tunnel, not many injured. The reaction in the financial markets to the hlaze on board one of Eurotun-

nel's freight shuttles on Monday night was remarkably sanguine. The shares were off just 3.5p yesterday and the price at which its debt trades was barely changed at a shade under

Perhaps the markets have become so accustomed to Eurotunnel's never ending succession of crises that they cannot summon up the energy to worry about one more. When you have debts of £9bn and no hope of making a profit until well into the next millenium, what do five burned out wagons and a two-thirds reduction in capacity really matter, even in the run-up to Christmas?

But perhaps the markets are being just a little too phlegmatic in their response. There is something about passengers emerging from a tunnel under the sea choking on the fumes and pursued by "blow-torch" like heat that has a special resonance. Fires on board ferries are oot much fun either, as one of Eurotunnel's bankers was quick to point out yesterday, but at least you can swim for it whereas the options 30 metres underneath the sea bed are somewhat more limited.

If the images from Monday night resonate loudly enough with travel agents and the InterGovernmental Safety Authority, which licences Eurotunnel to operate, theo the company and the project could be in trou-ble. There are two worries here. Will the fire and the resultant adverse publicity blow a big enough hole in Eurotunnel's revenues to make the arithmetic for its £8.7bn deht rescheduling look even more dubious?

Second, will Eurotunnel find itself having to make very expensive and time-consuming modifications to its freight shuttle design to give lorry drivers the same degree of fire protection afforded to holidaymakers? If it does then Eurotunnel will find its operational efficiency and hence revenue-earning capacity being hit. Sir Alastair Morton may yet be summoned out of renrement for Channel Tunnel 2: The Ultimate Crisis.

The pursuit of long-term success in busi-I ness is the holy grail of all executives, investors and policy makers, so we should not perhaps get too worked up about the launch of the Kleinwort Benson Tommorrow's Company Exempt Trust, a oew unit trust dedicated to investing in companies that take an "inclusive approach" to management. All the same, KB has latched on to quite compelling and highly saleable mvestment fad here which others are bound to follow. Even accountants, long the object of wrath for their concentration on the numbers, have started talking about a balanced scorecard" approach to financial reporting, while recent changes to accounting standards have dooe much to help readers of financial statements gain a wider view of company performance. A fund that seeks to move away from pure number-crunching and towards a more balanced approach to what constitutes "a successful company" should

The Tomorrow's Company report, which inspired the creation of the new trust, was criticised by many when it appeared last year for being too wishy-washy. Even so it did set out some clear criteria, including paying atteotion to "stakeholders" other than shareholders, for companies seeking to qualify as "inclusive". Kleinwort has gone on to list five "behaviourial aspects" to consider alongside business processes and financial results. They are communicating the company's purpose and values; identi-fying key sources of sustainable success; developing a unique success model and measuring its results; placing a positive value on key relacionships with such groups as suppliers, customers, the community and employees; and maintaining a healthy licence to operate.

The idea is that, soft and intaogible as

these criteria may be, they are still capable of being measured, and of having a positive financial effect. For instance, environmental concerns become financial issues when a pollution incident occurs, while a company that has its systems all running perfectly is still likely to find itself in trouble if it neglects customer service or investment in the development of its people. The only problem with all this is that every chief executive is going to claim that his or her company is meeting all these criteria. it will be up to the researchers to distinguish the real smart company from the many counterfeits.

Visitors

lift Euro

Disney

by 55%

A sharp increase in visitor num-

bers to Disneyland Paris, better occupancy rates at the theme

park's hotels and higher spend-

ing per head helped Euro Dis-

ney to a 55 per cent rise in

underlying profits in the year to

September.
The deht-laden leisure company admitted, however, that

the interest costs on its bor-

rowiogs are sel to rise rapidly

over the next few years forcing

it to run hard simply to stand

Philippe Bourguignon, chair-

man and chief executive, said:

We are proud of what has been

nomic environment, particu-

larly for the tourism industry.

Persistent weakness in the econ-

omy, constant pressure on our

prices and the strong increase

in financial charges constitute several real challenges for the

future, particularly in 1997."

Attendances rose by 9 per

cent to 11.7 million visitors in

the year to September, the second full-year period since a

financial restructuring in 1994

rescued Euro Disney. Numbers were boosted by the opening of the Space Mountain ride.

the introduction of lower winter prices in October 1995 and

the completion of high-speed

direct train links with western

France and London.

still in profit terms.

Tom Stevenson

Solid pop sales pump up the profits at EMI

Mathew Horsman

EMI, the music recording, publishing and retail arm of the now-demerged Thorn-EMI, yesterday cheered the City with better-than-expected half-year results, buoyed by solid sales from such lead acts as George

Michael and Tina Turner. Analysts said that big sellers in the current period, led by the new all-female band Spice Girls, would give an extra boost to the crucial second half, which includes the Christmas season.

Pre-tax profits of £112.5m, up 9.4 per cent on a pro-forma gloom and doom in the music business might have been overplayed, analysts added yesterday. The shares, which still bear a slight stock-market premium on takeover hopes, rose 23.5p to £12.94p yesterday. Sir Colin Southgate, EMI's classical music, and by its strong

chairman, said yesterday the market had been misled by recent poor results from such music giants as Polygram and MCA, which did not necessarily point to a downward secular trend in sales.

"There is a tremendous misunderstanding about the [music] market," he said. "When you account for differences in wholesale and retail markets, and recent currency movements, the trends are actually quite good."

softer, he conceded, but Europe which entered the US charts at and the dynamic economies of number one. Also scheduled for South-east Asia and Latin third-quarter release is a three-America more than made up for basis, indicated that recent it. EMI's business is heavily weighted toward Europe and other world markets, and the company has never developed a leading presence in the US. The results were also helped by EMI's relatively light exposure to such difficult markets as

local catalogues, particularly in South America and Europe. EMI's third quarter, which coincides with the Christmas selling period, is likely to be somewhat disappointing, how-ever, due to the lack of bigname releases. The company is expected to rely more on its back catalogue to drive compilation sales, and on one or two big sellers, which could include the new Spice Girls album and the third and final instalment of The US market has been the Beatles Anthology album,

> Formerly Known as Prince. EMI has high hopes for Spice Girls, the UK-based band. The all-girl group is "definitely part of a trend," Sir Colin said. "We have seen all-boy bands, hut now it the turn of the girls." The fourth quarter, starting

1 January, is expected to be par-

album special from the Artist



Flavour of the month: EMI is backing all-girl hands like Spice Girls (above) as the latest trend

ocularly strong, with new work from Duran Duran, Simple Minds, Blur, Supergrass and Robbie Williams, formerly with the hit group Take That.

Elsewhere in the group, the music publishing arm had a record half, which the company made an expected while, saw sales ahead by 17.4 per cent to £359.8m, on which the company made an expected is actively seeking to build. The HMV retail operations, mean-

seasonal loss of £11m. Analysts expect full-year

Sales since lauricit.

Donations to good causes

Unclaimed prizes amount to

Largest jeckpot to date

Winners of more than £1m

about 54p a share. The company declared an interim dividend of 8p a share, up from

figures of about £400m. or

THE NATIONAL LOTTERY - KEY FACTS

£42m (3 winners

Average spend by social class AB - 52.32 CI - 52.67

90% of adult population have played the lotten

two years, he said, a total of £3.7bn had been generated for the country - £2.5bn for good causes in the arts, sport, her-

nium fund, and £1.2bn in tax. More than £3hn has been paid out in prizes, with 533 jack-pots scored out of the total 127 million wioners. About two thirds of the adult population spending marginally more per head. The game is most popular in the North-east where the average weekly spend per play is £3.15 compared with £2.33 in London and only £2.03 in the

South-west. To counter criticisms that the

Occupancy rates in the park's seven hotels increased to 72 per cent, up 4 percentage points, and spend per room increased by 3 per cent to just over Fr1.000. Those trends helped operating revenues increase 9 per cent to Fr4.97bn (£584m) and after a smaller 3 per cent rise in costs underlying profits emerged at Fr724m, up from

That more than made up for Fr103m increase in finance costs due to the partial unwinding of the interest and royalty holidays negotiated in 1994, leaving income before exceptional items of Fr156m

Fr467m in 1995.

Projections of interest payments, however, show that profits will have to continue to grow sharply simply to meet the nigher charges. By 1998, interest payments will be running Fr430m higher than in 1995 and the following year royalties and a management charge to Walt Disney begin a progressive rise.

Despite its persistent fin-aocial worries Euro Disney is planning an extravagant yearlong celebration of its fifth birthday this year and has ambitious plans for the 1300 hectares of its 2000 hectare site that remain undeveloped.

in £77m deal

Chris Godsmark **Business Correspondent**

Vodafone yesterday strengthened its grip on the UK's mobile phone market with a £77m "detensive" deal to buy Peoples Phone, the largest indepeodent service provider. The company also gave an upbeat issessment of the market's

In the group's second such acquisition in the space of four months it will take over Peoples Phone's 181 shops on top of its existing total of 230 and will add 395,000 subscribers. The chain made losses of £7.3m in 1995 which il blamed on the cost of its expansion programme. Vixiafone will also take on £15m of debt.

Service providers buy up wholesale airtime from the big networks and sell it to consumers. Vodafone emerged as the most successful bidder in competition with Cellnet and Orange. Some 94 per cent of Peoples Phone's customers were already on the Vodafone network.

In July Vodafone paid £33.6m to buy up the remaining two thirds of the Talkland chain which it did not already own. The deal, which also involved it taking over debts of almost £30m, brought its total number of subscribers signed up through service providers to more than 1.1 million.

- B

N. A. P. S.

A Chest

The purchase of Peoples Phone will bring a cash windfall worth more than £3m to the four individual shareholders who provided the original capital to start the company in 1988. Three directors who provided seedcorn investment, Nigel Wray, Peter Whitfield and Robert Tanner, together make around £2.5m, while Charles Wigoder, the former chief executive, will earn some £558,000. In addition it represents a profit of £9.8m for the main

shareholder, merchant bankers

Singer & Friedlander, which built up a 30 per cent stake over the past three years.

However, it represents a crushing hlow to the company's initial amhitions to raise around £200m from a stock market listing. Tony Solomons, chairman of Peoples Phone and of Singer & Friedlander, insisted the deal, arranged by the Swiss banking group UBS, was still a good one.

It also emerged that Mr Wigoder has settled his claim against Peoples Phone for un-fair dismissal following the decision to pull the flotation. He was also being sued by his former employer with allegations of accounting irregularities. Mr Solomons declined to give details of the settlement.

Sir Gerald Whent, Vodafone's ontgoing chief executive, admitted the purchase was a defensive move. He said the deal made sense when another organisation holds a large number of your subscribers and puts itself on the market ... We would hate to think or 400,000 of our customers falling

into the wrong hands." The announcement came as Vodafone, which leads the UK market, revealed a 21 per cent rise in pre-tax profits for the six months to the end of September to £252.4m. In an more upbeat assessment of the UK mobile phone husiness, it claimed customers spending levels were stabilising after a severe price war earlier this year.

Revenue per customer also fell from £481 to £430, though Vodafone said this was better than its forecast of a drop to just

over £400. The so-called churn rate, the rate at which customers move to other networks, rose from 25 per cent to 27.34 per cent as many subscribers switched to the digital service from the old-

er analogue system. The shares rose 10.5p to Investment column, page 26 Young the ex-fund manager

Vodafone buys | Second weekly draw set Peoples Phone | as Camelot profits slump

Tom Stevenson City Editor

The first midweek National Lottery draw will be held on 5 February 1997, Camelot said esterday. The Wednesday jackpot is expected to settle at about £4m, cannibalising the Saturday draw slightly hut increasing the game's weekly income from its curreot £69m to over £80m.

News of the second weekly draw emerged as Camelot reported a sharp drop in profits for the 24 weeks to September, following a slump in demand for the Instants scratchcards which were launched just prior to the

first few weeks, turnover has settled at about £17m. In contrast to the rapid fall in

Instants sales, which Camelot chief executive Tim Holley said was expected and a better performance than other lotteries around the world, sales of tickets for the main weekly draw actually rose by 2 per ceot during the period to £1.68bn as the Lottery continued to exert a strong grip on the UK's £24bn a year gaming industry.

Total sales io the half year were £2.1hn, of which over filhn went in prizes, £568m was distributed to good causes

comparable period in 1995. After weekly sales of £44m in their Government in tax. Sales in the comparable six-month period were £2.51bn. The sharp fall in sales was rellected in a fall in pre-tax profits

from £36.2m to £31.5m at Camelot, 90 per cent of which is owned in equal proportions by Cadbury Schweppes, De La Rue, GTech and Racal. The remaining 10 per cent is held by ICL, the computer company owned by Fujitsu of Japan. The consortium of owners shared in a £10m dividend.

Sir George Russell, chair-man, said the Lottery had been highly successful since its launch in November 1994. In its first

itage, charities and the Millen-

play the Lottery regularly, with members of C2 social class

Lottery encourages excessive gambling and makes excessive profits Camelot has established a charitable foundation, which it expects to put £5m into this year.

Kleinwort seeks fresh investment goals

Roger Trapp

Kleinwort Benson is seeking to counter the City's reputation for basing investment decisions purely on financial criteria. It is launching a fund that will buy stock in companies that pay attention to a wide range of stakeholders and other aspects of the 'inclusive approach" put for-

ward by the Royal Society for the flation and gross domestic prodencouragement of the Arts, Manufactures and Commerce inquiry "Tomorrow's Company"

The Kleinwort Benson Tomorrow's Company Exempt Trust, launched yesterday by the firm's investment management arm, is seeking to give investors "superior, sustainable, longterm returns" at a time when in-

minimal growth. The announcement of the fund follows research by kleinwort Benson Investment Management showing that a model

portfolio of companies fitting the RSA team's criteria would have significantly outperformed the FTSE All-Share index be-

tween December 1992 and June said: "This product is innovative because, it broadeos the scope uct are expected to show only Brennan Hiorns, chief invest-

> ment officer at Kleinwort Bensoo Investment Managemeot. said that the investment process hehind this model complemented the firm's research-based approach to fund management. Paul Sheehan, who will manage the new fund's investments.

of the investment process." Among behaviourial aspects

the firm will look at are communciating the commany svalues, identifying key sources of sustainable success; and placing a value of key relationships with groups such as customers, suppliers, the community and, above all, employees.

Morgan's fallen stars bottom of class



脚 Treano Banking Correspondent The once top performing funds

run by Morgan Grenfell are languishing at the bottom of the league tables after the Peter Young affair, desplte receiving a £180m cash injection by Deutsche, the German bank that owns the fund management At the start of September

Morgan Grenfell suspended trading for three days in the three star funds in which 90,000 people had invested £1.4bn. investors in the funds - Europa.

European Growth and European Capital Growth - have since redeemed at least £180m of their holdings

The Europa fund, managed by Stewart Armer, who is not directly implicated to the scandal hut who had made similar investments in high-technology stocks like Mr Young, was the top performing fund in its sector until the start of the year. However, it is now ranked

127th out of the 130 similar funds tracked by Micropal, the company that measures the performance of funds. The value of Europa has

fallen 9.74 per since 9 September, the start of the first full week of trading after the dealing suspension was lifted. The value of the European

Growth Fund, managed by Mr Young, fell 6.41 per cent over the same period putting it in 110th place. Until the start of the year it was the sector's second most

successful fund. The performance record of the other fund formerly managed by Mr Young, European Capital Growth, is not available

from Micropal. However, the Miropal data

trust sector as a whole performed poorly over the period, falling 4.42 per cent.

Peter Jeffreys, managing director of Fund Research, an independent company that monitors the industry, said the weakness in the European sector could largely be explained by the strength of sterling in re-

Deutsche has pledged to compensate any investors who have lost out because of the actions of Mr Young, who is now uoder investigation by the Serious Fraud Office . Investiga-

cent weeks.

shows that the European unit tors allege Mr Young set up a series of shell firms in which his funds had invested and also breached limits on the amount of unlisted securities which unit trusts are allowed to buy.

lmro, the investment regulator, is working on the complex calculations that will determine whether, and how much, compensation is due.

Separately, Deutsche Bank yesterday bought the 50 per cent stake it did not already own in Ivor Jones, Roy, a South African stockbroker firm. It will rename the broker Deutsche Morgan Grenfe".

Allied Colloids pays \$390m for chemical firm

Allied Colloids is mounting its biggest acquisition with the \$390m (£233m) purchase of CPS Chemical Company, a US supplier of chemical intermediates to the Bradford-based group. To help pay for the deal, Allied is tapping shareholders for £173m in its first rights issue for 20 years.

The sale will net \$187m for Pbil Meisel, the man who founded the CPS business in 1955 and whose family still controls 96 per cent of the shares. His sons are less involved in the business and at the age of 69, he has decided to retire. He will be retained by Allied as a consultant for a year.

The move was generally well received by the stock market yesterday, despite the simultaneous announcement of a modest 4 per cent rise in interim profits to £21.1m. Allied's sbares fell just 5p to 138p, well above the rights terms. Sbarebolders are being offered two new sbares at 118p each for every seven held, with the rights fully underwritten by Kleinwort Benson.

The acquisition follows a period of management change at Allied Colloids, including the imminent retirement of chairman Sir Trevor Holdsworth and the appointment 18 months ago of David Farrar, who previously ran the group's North American arm for four years. Mr Farrar said CPS had been a long-term acquisition target for some time. The two comanies had built up a close relationship in the eight years CPS bad been supplying Allied and the latter was its largest customer, representing 14 per cent of annual sales.

Like Allied, CPS is involved an earlier stage in the supply group's reach could be extend-



Calling it a day: Sir Trevor Holdsworth will shortly be retiring as Allied Colloids makes its biggest acquisition

chain. Mr Farrar claimed CPS leads the world in its niche, with products used in the treatment of effluent, drinking water and to maintain cleanliness in boilers and cooling towers, amongst other applications. Customers include the mining, oil and wa-

ter treatment industries. "It brings us into a market which has grown at some 10 to 15 per cent over the past five " Mr Farrar said. CPS would "enhance our core chemistry" and bring synergies. Over the next year or two, the com-Like Allied, CPS is involved in water soluble polymers, although its products come at lower prices, while the US

ed to Europe and the Par East using Allied's 400-man salesforce. Currently 78 per cent of sales are within the US. He dismissed the loss of business from two customers, in-

cluding the French group Floerger, its main rival, after they decided to huild their own intermediates plant at the end of 1995. That has hit results this year, but the \$23m of lost sales had since been more than made up elsewhere and Floerger had returned as a customer.

Allied said that, after excep tional charges in the past 30 months, underlying profits rose 17 per cent in the six months to

De La Rue facing a credibility gap

De La Rue has had things too easy for too long. The group's sharp rise in profits in the early 1990s was brought to a studdering halt last year and two trading warnings have brought the shares to their level four years ago. Many of the problems lie in the recent upsurge in new capacity attracted into the lucrative commercially-supplied hanknote market which De La Rue. hanknote market, which De La Rue

De La Rue can hardly be hlamed for that. But it also enjoyed a one-off and unrepeatable boost from the break-up of the Russian monopoly on banknote production in the former Soviet empire. It produced the paper money for the newly independent states and helped them to build their own state-

owned printing plants.

The chickens have come home to roost over the 30 months as bank note margins have tumbled, but De La Rue was calling the turn yesterday. Reporting pre-tex profits down 13 per cent for the six months to September to £60.3m, chief executive Jeremy Marshall said there were signs that pricing was stabilising. Indeed prices are showing a rise of around 4 per cent in the latest six months, giving the group the confidence to raise the interim dividend by 3.4 per cent to 7.5p.

There was also encouraging news from Portals, the security paper company acquired last year for a net at 21 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £252m, show all the scars of battle. raised its profits a third to around £13.5m in the period. Meanwhile, Garny, the German safes to cash handling business, appears to be recover-ing from the competition which hit it last year, with profits up from £700,000 to £1.6m in the six months, and US or-ders are returning despite the contin-uing disruption from bank mergers.

But De La Rue still has something of a credibility gap to overcome. Far from increasing barriers to entry and so widening margins, adding gizmos to banknotes like optically variable ink, which changes colour depending on the angle of view, has actually squeezed returns as the prices charged have not covered the increased cost. Margins in the security paper and print division, De La Rue's most profitable, have accordingly slumped from close to 26 per cent to just over 21 per cent.

In the long run, the group still has plenty going for it. Holograms on bank notes and "smart" chips on pay-ment cards, another market it domi-nates, should provide differentiation and a spur to growth.

The extra £4.7m spent in the half year on development of new products in cash handling should also deliver long-term benefits, even if it hit returns

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN which turned in a profit, excluding exceptional costs, for the first time.

De La Rue: at a glance

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

likely to fall again to £135m this year, putting the shares, up 3.5p to 558.5p, on a forward multiple of 13. Hold for

Vodafone keeps rivals at bay

Judging by Vodafone's half-yearty resuits yesterday, confidence is tentatively returning to the mobile phone market, turned on its head early this year when Vodafone and Cellnet, threatened by the upstart Orange, launched a massive price war. The result was a period of damaging turbulence, as all four net-works signed up customers who wanted the kndos of owning a mobile phone but apparently didn't want to make any calls on it. Average spend per customer was on its way down from around £600 in 1994 to somewhere approaching £400 depending on the operator.

At first glance Vodafone's figures, de-

in the latest period. But profits are likely to fall again to £135m this year, ber, down from 371,000 the previous year. Cash earned from each subscriber also fell from £481 to £430, while it is having to pay more to service providers, the retailers who sell mobile phone airtime, to persuade customers to sign up.
Yet Vodafone has come off better

than its three rivals, most particularly by pulling out n huge lead over Orange in the digital market. As Sir Gerald Whent, the group's retiring chief executive smugly pointed out, in January Vodafone had just 17,000 more digital subscribers than Orange, whereas now the lead has stretched to 300,000. Orange would no doubt argue that its customers are fast becoming more loyal and spend more, but the fact remains that Vodafone has strengthened its role as market leader, backed up by much greater marketing muscle. Seen in this light its £77m takeover of Peoples Phone, which admittedly made losses of £7.3m last year, seems a sensible defensive move. The second source of strength which singles out Vodafone is its international expansion.

Vodafone forecasts the UK market will grow next year at 20-25 per cent. about the same rate as 1996. The business is likely to remain as competitive as ever, however, and prospective earnings growth in the kww to mid-teens makes the shares, up 11-5p to 25-4p. look pricy on a prospective price/earnings ratio of 23 falling to 20.

Unigate delivers under pressures

No one can accuse Ross Buckland of inaction during his tenure as Unigate's chief executive. Non-core businesses such as the US restaurants have been sold along with the stake in Nutricia. the baby foods business, last year. Unigate is now focused on food and the Wincanton distribution division. In-

vestors are waiting for the next move.

The sale of the Nutricin stake for £300m was a year ago now and very lit-tle of the cash has been spent. Unigate had £56m of cash at the end of the half year, a figure that will rise to the best part of £130m at the year end. Management is clearly looking for

a deal. A US deal has more or less been ruled out as Unigate would be n small player in a large market. A continenal European operation to strengthen. Wincanton is the likely option.

Though the company admits it has funds for a "sizeable nequisition" Mr Buckland is unlikely to hurry II deal as the performance in the core business is steady. Pre-tax profits were flat at £60m due to lower prices of butter and milk powder products as well as the absence of the Nutricia contribution.

The fresh foods division, which includes the St Ivel and Malton pig meat businesses, performed strongly with profits 29 per cent higher. However, the dairy business continues to be affected by lower doorstep deliveries. These were 11 per cent down on the previous year though the rate of decline is slowing. A further problem was the loss of a supermarket customer which caused supermarket sales to fall by 2.4 per cent. Wincanton continues to win new distribution contracts, with Argos, Lever Brothers and Mars among the

Assuming full year profits of £126m. Unigate shares - up 2p at 432p yes-terday - trade on a forward rating of 11. There are compenitive pressures such as Unilever attempting to build its margarine market share, but the shares look good value.

on dividend list

Patrick Tooher

Norcros, the industrial conglomerate in the process of unhundling itself, yesterday neturned to the dividend list but indicated that long-suffering shareholders may have to wait up to two years for cash to be returned to them.

A special payment to investors has been promised once Norcros completes the sale of its printing and packaging operations to concentrate on ceramics, adhesives and Triton showers activities.

But the disposal of the two remaining printing and pack-aging husinesses - Norprint and Autotype - has been put on hold and yesterday Joe hold and yesterday Joe Marthews, chief executive, indicated no sale was imminent.

The division does not fit in with our long-term plans, but there is more to do before they are in good enough shape to sell. Until we reach a positive cash position share buybacks or a special dividend are really a non-issue," he said, noting the balance sheet still contained

Mr Matthews added that a wood, the factor property portfolio still had to be unwound, which could year later.

take "between 18 months and two years" to complete.

Results for the six months to September showed a net £46m was raised from the sale of two printing and packaging busi-nesses that eliminated the deficit on reserves and allowed Norcros to pay a 1p interim dividend its first payout for two years.

Norcros also reported a 17 per cent rise in operating profit £6.9m for the group's continuing operations. Pre-tax profits were £51.2m, boosted by the £45.8m in exceptional gains from disposals.

Net borrowings fell by £30m to just under £17m, or 11 per cent of shareholders' funds, versus gearing of 37 per cent in

Despite the disappointing news on a special payment, shares in Norcros – as high as 400p in the late Eighties closed 4p higher at 93p. Norcros, which escaped a

£570m takeover bid from Williams. the industrial conglomerate in 1987, has undergone almost continuous restructuring since Micbael Doherty succeeded John Redwood, the former Conservative Party leadership candidate, a

Norcros back | Surprise profits rise boosts BOC

Nigel Cope

group, vesterday surprised the stock market with a betterthan-expected jump in earnings, just three months after a veiled profits warning triggered a big share price drop.

The latest news, which sent the

group's shares surging by more than 5 per cent, was accompa-

Country Casuals, the wom-

enswear retailer, was looking

distinctly frayed at the edges yes-

terday when it issued a profits

warning just a month after dis-

The company warned investors that this year's profit would be "materially below"

forecasts and said it would not

be recommending the payment

Country Casuat's shares

plunged 36p to 64p on the news,

their lowest point since the com-

of a final dividend.

appointing first-half figures.

nied by a plea from Danny the end of September were a lems in its Edwards vacuum Rosenkranz, the recently appropriated chief executive, that increased by 7 per cent to BOC had been "misunderstood".

F4.02bu. The company declared biggest customers, the leading "To say we're frustrated with the way we're seen by the mar-

kets is a bit strong, but we are clearly disappointed," he complained. "The task we have set s to explain our strategy in more depth. We are a lot more exciting than we are seen out there."
BOC's profits in the year to

Warning by Country

Casuals hits shares

pany came to the market in 1992, fuelling speculation that it

could again become a takeover

target. It is only a year since

Country Casuals successfully fought off a £27m bid from for-

mer chief executive John Shan-

non which valued the group at

140p per share.

Management blamed the latest setback on a "significant de-

terioration" in trading since its

imerim results in October. Full-

year profits will now be "not less"

than £1m compared with previ-

While the core Country Ca-

ous forecasts of £2.4m.

a 7.4 per cent increase in its dividend for the year ahead to 29p. Gas analysts apparently took the plea to heart, with shares

closing up 44.5p at 880.5p. Mr Rosenkranz insisted his

profits warning in August had been widely misinterpreted. At the time BOC mentioned prob-

suals stores have reported strong trading in recent weeks, Elvi, the

new chain aimed at larger

women, has not been able to sus-

tain the year-on-year growth of the first half. Lerose Manufac-

manufacturing subsidiary, con-

tinues to rack up monthly losses.

computer chip manufacturers. The company revealed yesterday a 28 per cent increase in

operating profits to £90.3m for

the vacuum products business. Though some orders from the semiconductor industry were likely to be deferred, the business remained highly profitable.



turing the troublesome garment Bunce said Elvi needed to grow Mark Bunce, chief executive. said: "I feel this is a short-term sales to move into profitability. issue. We've got a core business While like-for-like sales increases [Country Casuals] that made were running at 24 per cent in profits of £3.5m last year. The October. They have since slowed problem is we have a start-up to 10-15 per cent. Elvi has grow business [Elvi] and a manufacto a 56 strong chain since its for turing division that are dragging mation three years ago.

 Enterprise Inns confirmed it would be interested in buying: pubs from Bass if, as rumoured, it is forced to sell up to 1,000 in return for regulatory clearance of its proposed takeover of Carlsberg-Tetely. Enterprise reported a 50 per cent rise in profit before tax and exceptional items in its first full-year figures since last November's flotation. Underlying profits of £8.5m compared with 1995's £5.6m. Enterprise, which came to the market at 145p. closed yesterday 12p bigher at 250.5p.

 Shares in Vision Group, the camera microchip group, soared 22 per cent to 324.5p yesterday when the company said three new contracts would lead to sharply higher volumes this year. The new business bas led the group to raise £11.5m through a three-for-19 rights issue priced at 235p. Vision will need to expand and re-locate its Edinburgh head office. Vision announced increased losses of £2.5m for the year to July compared with a £1.6m loss last year.

 Azian, the computer services group, is paying up to £29.6m for Akam, a Dutch network computer training specialist. The deal will be funded by a three-for-10 rights issue at 620p a share, raising £48.5m. Azlan's interim figures showed a 74 per cent increase in turnover to £127m and pre-tax profits rose to £6m from £4.4m.

 Porvair, which makes synthetic microporous materials, saw its shares crash 68.5p to 196.5p yesterday after its second profits warning in four months. The shares are at less than half their 12-month high of 431p. The company said it would not make profiits this year of more than £4.2m, much lower than analysis expectations of up to £7m. Analysts said yesterday they believed the fundamental attractions of the stock remained, however, and some used the sharp fall to change their recommendation to box

 Ian Plenderleith, an executive director of the Bank of England, told a conference in London yesterday that there was at reason to think staying out of the single European currency would harm the City. He gave six reasons wby London would retain its international position. The City has role in global, as opposed to European markets. Improvements in the Continental markets so far bave increased business in London. Despite the uncertain about UK membership of Emu, foreign banks have continued to expand in the City. Economies of scale in financial activity favoration further concentration in London. The City has the advantage of the English language and time zone. And, finally, its finances infrastructure has continued to improve.

 NatWest Bank yesterday announced plans to issue £300m 15-year subordinated notes. The notes bear an interest rate, find at 8.125 per cent for the first 10 years and at 1.6 per cent ofer five-year Treasury stock for the remaining five years.

Company Results Turnover £ Pro-tax £ EPS Man & Harvey (I) 24.2m (27.3m) 2.55m (2.54m) 34.6p (30.8p) 12.25p (Wood Collectes (f) 206m (191m) 21.1m (20.3m) 2 84p (2.81p) 0.64p (4. krien (i) 126m (72.7m) 6.0m (4 4m) 15p (13.6p) 1.3p (12.7m) Sett Bros (F) 38.3m (33.5m) 5.02m (5.57m) 33.27p (28.83p) 5.6p (6.4m) JEC (F) 4.02bn (3.75bn) 445m (402m) 57 74p (51.97p) 14.8p.66-20 2.09bn (2.51bn) 31.5m (36.2m) - (-) Cossit (F) 84.5m (73.2m) 3.75m (2.80m) 20.38p (15.80p) 9.8p (15.80p) De La Rus (I) 60.3m (69.1m) 19.7p (23.1p) 7.5p (7.3) EKI Group (I) 1.47bn (1.44bn) 113m (103m) 15.1p (13.5p) 8p (7.44bn) storptize Inns (F) 5 34m (5.66m) 10.34p (14.3p) 6.75m (5.66m) 10.3m (10.2m) 1.48m (1.36m) 2.41p (2.35p) 0.830m (1.75p) 18.1m (13.2m) 1.43m (0.65m) 9.7p (6.4p) 2 da (2.00) Cell Theodage (I) 0.96m (0.40m) 2.1p (0.6p) treat Portland Est (1) - (-) 21.9m (23 8m) 5.1p (5.6p) 2.9p (2.9%) 79.8m (74.2m) 10.5m (9.5m) 11.5p (10.34p) 2.1p (1.7p) Herotant Retail (I) -0.30m (-3.33m) -0.28p (-0.78p) -(-) (I) serarak 115m (160m) S1 2m (18.7m) 28.5p (8.8p) 1p (80) Policy Particito (1) 11.8m (9.61m) 0.56m (0.38m) 4.6p (3.2p) 20 20 Rebus Group (1) 30.3m (26.3m) 2.3m (2.5m) 1.72p (1.80p) 1.6p (1.72p) (i) stepted) 1.14bn (937m) 60.6m (80.4m) 194 (18.6p) Vision Group (F) 4.43m (1.73m) -2.32m (-1.50m) -7.39p (-6.61p) - (-) 74.1m (68.6m) 2.7m (3.4m) 4.4p (5p)

Living without George Michael at a Capital bash

To the opening of Capital Radio's new radio theme restaurant in London's Leicester Square, where despite the non-appearance of the star guest, George Michael, a fab time was bad by all.

Wuh Tamara Beckwith, Lionel Ritchie. Chris Rea and David Seaman to rub shoulders with, not to mention a scribe or two from the Independent, who needs George Michael anyway?

I say all, hut Richard Eyre, Capital's Bible-bashing chief executive was looking decidedly grumpy as the hacks and other assembled free-loaders downed his champagne in copious quantities.

What on earth's the matter? It transpires that he's still feeling mighty poeved at the generally poor press he received last week for his £51m acquisition of the My Kinda Town restaurant chain. "That was a very poor show indeed. Whatever happened to recognition of bold management, he complained bitterly.

Who knows? Maybe he's right after all and radio will mix well with the restaurant trade. Looks as if he's onto a wianer with the Leicester Square site, in any case.

Student protests, oace characterised by tear gas and calls for the overthrow of capitalism, aren't what they used to be. Consider this. Peter Rosengard, the life assurance saleman who helped found the Comedy Store in London, has just been interviewed for a television programme about contrasts between the soaraway1980s

and insecure 1990s. In the Carlton show, The Big Story, which goes out this Thursday, Mr Rosengard gives this example of how times have changed.

"I was driving along Oxford Street when I saw a student demo. I slowed down to PEOPLE & BUSINESS

ng, and it went: "What do we want? - Pensions! -When do we want them? - Now!" Nothing about LBJ or down with Thatcher, Just a blood-curdling demand for index-linked pensions.

hear what they were chanti-



Tamara Beckwith: Avallable to rub shoulders with

Whatever next? Student demos calling for relaxation of VAT thresholds?

The Erie Cantona Quote of the Week Award goes to Lord Runciman of Doxford deputy chairman of SIB, who delivered the Securities Institute annual lecture last night.

At one point in his speech on regulation Lord Runciman quoted this Cantonalike German proverb: "What happens when two ogres meet in the forest? Both Later he went one better and quoted a Greek proverh:

Pandora's boxes." But his Lordship admitted he had made the secood one up. Lord MacClaurin of Knebworth, chairman of Tesco,

Lame ducks don't open

chairman of the Pru, will exchange honours this Thursday in an academic version of pass the parcel

Lord MacLaurin will be formally installed as Chancellor of the University of Hertfordshire during a ceremony in the Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban. He succeeds Sir Brian, who in keeping with the traditional ceremony will hand over a scroll to the Tesco chief as a symbol of his leadership. Following the bandover of leadership, Sir Brian will be awarded an honourary Doctor of Science (DSc) degree. Elite long-serving members of De la Rue, the maker of

bank notes, can join the De-Jarunarian Club, I hear. The club consists of 81 employees, all of whom have worked at De La Rue for 37 years. Next year is the 50th anniversary of the club.

Apparently the company has a high proportion of and Sir Brian Corby, former long-term employees because of the technical expertise involved in making forgery-proof bank notes.

Sources inform me that one of the key topics of conversation during the annual lunch in London is which members have died since the last one. Sadder still, the Delarunarians was for employees of 40 years' duration, hut staff turnover has led to a lowering of the age specification.

Bronwyn Curtis, described by colleagues as "a glamorous, dynamic former ballet dancer", is joining Nomura as chief economist from Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, where she was global bead of foreign exchange and fixed income strategy Mrs Curtis is a graduate in

economics and mathematics from La Trohe University in Australia and then completed an MsC at the London School of Economics.

John Willcock

Reports of phantom copper stocks boost RTZ group

What appears to be a phantom copper stockpile is giving the RTZ mining group a lift.

Are also be a phantom ledger of the world's largest producer, to offset problems created by the firm Arguments have raged in the ness of sterling. The rise in the commodity market about metal price was the main inworld copper levels with suggestions a big hoard in Rotterdam, possibly 500,000

tonnes, had escaped inclusion m any of the official statistics. But there is now a strong belief the Dutch stockpile could be a statistical quirk and does not exist. If it is an illusion it up to this year's occasion should strengthen prices, indeed, few traders now seem prepared to factor the mysterious Rotterdam metal into New York offers seductive en-

their calculations. The market has been in a state of confusion since the Sumitomo scandal which piled up losses, at the last count, of

With, however, stocks now thought to be below the estimates being made only last week the copper price is likely

fluence behind RTZ's 13.5p gam to 935p.

Most the stock market remained petrified by the head-lights of the looming Budget. The yearly financial exercise usually has an inhibiting influence on shares but the run eems to be causing even more indecisiveness than usual. Trading is thin and although

couragement shares remain They were drifting aimlessly ahead of Wall Street's opening. When, at one stage, it seemed the rampant Dow Jones Average was intent on hitting

MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN stock market reporter of the year

Second and third liners, but P&O welcomed the usually indifferent to New prospect of more ferry cus-York anyway, hardly stirred. tomers with a 9p rise to 606.5p. Even power shares were on Manchester Utd shot a 13p the blink; London Electricity starred with a 28.5p gain to 665p on talk of a bid from US gain to 552p on continuing sto-ries of bid action. Granada, figures today, is the latest candidate to strike. The shares group, Entergy. British Enershaded 2.5p to 892.5p. Vodafone dialled a 10.5p

gy, maiden figures tomorrow, gained 7p to a 133p peak. The hope is the results -£25m is the guess from Nat West Securities - will be accompanied by some intriguing Phone should lock in many comments about hidden propgroup denied persistent market erty riches. It could be said the market, after the Railtrack excitement, expects sparks to fly

shares managed a 2.5p gain (af-ter 4.5p) to 371.5p. BAT In-dustries, mentioned as the predator, rose 2p to 438p.
British Petroleum, up 1 Ip to 686p, was largely a beneficiary of US buying; BOC was helped 44.5p higher to 880.5p by Barclays gained 10.5p to 976p, probably on a Kleinwort Benson presentation.

Profit warnings took their predictable toll. Porvair, the synthetic materials group, crashed 57.5p to 207.5p and Country Casuals, a fashion gain to 254p. Interim figures came in ahead of expectations; the £7/m take over of People's

wear group, lost 36p to 64p. Yorkshire Food, which ear-lier this month said it was in talks with its bankers and warned losses could exceed £10m, retreated a further 6.5p to 13p (after touching 10p). At

story was rekindled, being banked on a bid, gained 4.5p quickly stubbed out. The to 231p and Zeneca came in for a late speculative run, jumping 41.5p to 1,697.5p. Matthew Clark, the cider

group hit by the growing taste for alcopops, continued to drift lower. The price fell 7p to 273.5p, a low. Before the group's troubles were known in the summer the shares were riding at 801p.

Azim, the services and train-

lowing a cash call to fund a £48.5m Dutch takeover. Halfyear operating profits were up 40 per cent.

MAID, the on-line infor-

ing group, fell 90p to 650p fol-

mation group again reflected worries a funding exercise will soon be under way. The shares fell 20.5p to 230p.

Druid, a management consultancy specialising in IT systems, made its expected firm

Taking Stock

Cardinal Business, Alan Raldwin's second-timearound office equipment and delivery venture, added 1.5p to 12.5p. Share buying by former director Malcolm Burge prompted the gain. He left the struggling group in the summer, sharing a £500,000 compensation handshake with another director, Peter Danckley, and the director of a subsidiary company. Mr. Borge has 9 per cent, lifting his stake from 7.9 per cent. Since arriving at Cardinal. Mr Baldwin has failed to reverse poor trading. He built Securiguard, taken over by

to 67.5p, a 12 month low, on interim profits up 9 per cent to £1.48m. The group, which

3978.1+16.0
FTSE 250
4400.3 +0.1
FISE 350
1980.2 +6.3
SEAQ VOLUME
7 661.1m shares
37,234 bargains
Gilts Index
94.66 +0.17
C. The second se
30 3F0 CB 411
Share spotlight
Share price, pence
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Law the latest to leave Sussex

Cricket

Sussex found themselves in turmoil yesterday when the talented all-rounder Danny Law became the third high-profile player to leave the Hove

Law. 21, who has joined Essex on a three-year contract. follows the leg-spinner Ian Salisbury, who has signed for Surrey, and the sacked Ed Giddins. now with Warwickshire.

And the exodus may not be over as their former captain Alan Wells has formally requested permission to speak to other counties and the batsman Martin Speight is considering a

At the end of last season, Law was offered a new three-year deal and his move to Chelmsford follows a flight to Mel-bourne by the Sussex second XI coach and Law's former mentor Chris Waller in an attempt to talk him round.

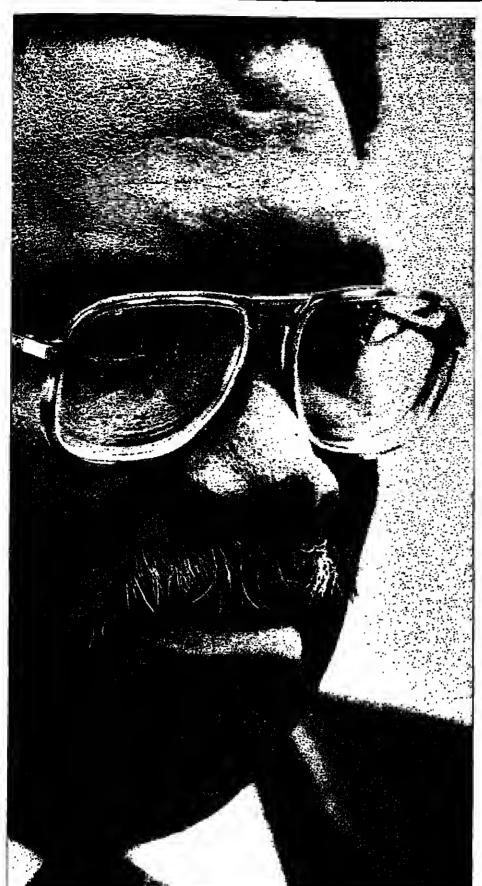
Law had been with the club since he was 13 and last season enjoyed his best summer, scoring 609 runs in the Championship and taking 44 wickets. Jason Gailian was yesterday

given the all-clear to stay on England A's tour of Australia after consulting the same spe-cialist who treated Shane Warne's finger injury.

The Lancashire batsman was hit on the index finger of his right hand batting during the tourists' seven-wicket victory over the Australian Cricket Academy.

He was taken to a doctor yes terday in Melbourne after the 14-man party flew there to prepare for Friday's match with the state side Victoria at the Optus Oval. His manager, David Gravency, said: "It is just a question of getting over the pain he is suffering at present."

Gallian missed the two victories over South Australia in Adelaide with another hand injury he collected during the tour's opening game and is almost certain to miss the Victo-



Clive Lloyd: Searching for the 'right attitude' from West Indies players Photograph: Allsport

'Playing for your country was paramount – and so was winning. That's what I hope I can bring to this team'

ustralia has loomed large in the cricketing life of Clive Lloyd. It was here in 1968-69, as a jumior at the start of his long and distin-guished career, that he wit-nessed the disintegration of the formidable West Indies am of that era.

It was here, eight years later in the apprenticeship of his captaincy, that he again expenenced the ruthlessness of the Australians in a humbling 5-1 drubbing in the Test series.

It was here, under the toughening influence of Kerry Pack-ers World Series Cricket, that he moulded West Indian invincibility that was to last for 15 years.

It was here, in 1985, that he made his exit as the most successful captain the West Indies have had a hero decorated with a sheath of honours, significantly among them the

Now Lloyd returns with as daunting a challenge as he has had to face. He was summoned from his home in England last February to be manager of the West Indies team shaken to the core in the previous 18 months by indifference, indiscipline and internal division.

It ied to the loss, on home turf, of the cherished Frank Worrell Trophy to determined Australian opponents and a general upheaval in which captain, coach, manager, board president and, most recently, selectors were all changed.

Lloyd has brought with him on his latest Australian venture as coach and right-hand man, Malcolm Marshall, one of the fast-bowling enforcers during the West Indies' period of

Both have the advantage not only of reputation and of proven record but of being divorced from the problems that led to the resignation of the captain, Richie Richardson, and the

So says Clive Lloyd, talking to Tony Cozier in Brisbane. Lloyd is charged with reviving West Indies' fortunes in the Test series against Australia, which starts on Friday.

trust," he reflected.

"The players trusted me.

I stood for. I thought it right that we had discipline on and off the field and they appreciated that. "We discussed things. We

have players who desperately

wanted to play for the West Indies and, while we weren't

handsomely paid, playing for

your country, representing your

people, was paramount - and so

hope I can bring to this team.

sport, the Australians are call-

ing the series "The Decider"

and, no matter what the Pak-

istanis, South Africans or In-

dians say about it, Lloyd and

almost everyone else in these

parts is in no doubt that the vic-

tor can justifiably claim to be

Test cricket's unofficial cham-

Indies indisputably held for 15

years before very much the same Australians they now face snatched it from them in the

Caribbean. They return, under

Lloyd, Marshall and a new cap-

tain - Courtney Walsh - seek-

ing not only to regain the title

changed, they still rely on the

same philosophy to win match-

es: fast bowling supported by the

heavy scoring bat of Lara. Yet

two of their key wicket-takers,

Walsh and Curtly Ambrose,

are now well into their thirties

and those who support them,

Even if their leadership has

but to restore dented pride.

That was a title the West

"I think it was a matter of replacement of the coach, Andy Roberts, during the World Cup. They realised I was not parochial and believed in what

They take over the running of the Test team, on three-year contracts, seeking to regain the world trophy at a time when the new board is making an obvious and concerted effort to break free of the complacency brought on by the long years at the top.

"We are moving in the right direction," Lloyd said. "We allowed things to lapse there for a while and the other countries like Australia and South Africa put things in place to improve their game at all levels. We have got some catching up to do but I can feel there is a buzz about the future."

The future that Lloyd is most concerned about is immediate and starts here on Friday with the first Test of five in a series that Lloyd, and everyone else, recognises as being the West Indies' sternest examination since his own side was thrashed

21 years ago.
"This series is going to be tough, there's no doubt about that," he said. "I am looking for enthusiastic players, players who are not afraid to go out and face the world, players like Bri-an Lara who came here last time (in 1992-93) and wanted to do

something and be something.
"I'm looking for the committed player, the dedicated player," he added. "The appropriate catchphrase would be if you want to gain altitude, you must have the right attitude."

The commitment and dedication, noticeably absent in the to Australia in the Caribbean last year, are the assets that Lloyd instilled in his Jan Bishop and Kenny players in his 10 years as captain. Benjamin, are injury prone.

average over 50 in Tests it is Lara to whom they look for runs, and it is not a misplaced theory that when he fails the

Australia look equally as much for their success to the spinning fingers of Shane Warne and one of the most essential of those fingers is still getting over the effects of an operation last May. He has bowled plenty in Sheffield Shield matches already this season with no after-effects. but whether he can stand up to the pressure of two Tests, backto-back as they are here, re-

mains open to question. Even so, the Australians have tremendous depth and a team effort, rather than the exploits was winning. That's what I of an individual or two, is likely to determine the series. In the jingoism they have borrowed from American

Australia's self-confidence took a dent last month when they lost the one-off Test and were beaten in five one-day internationals in India. What psychological effect those reversals had will be seen over the coming days but the strength of their young brigade was evident in the complete dominance of their reserves, playing under the banner of an Australian XI, in a crushing 10-wicket victory over the West Indies at the

The Australians have stuck. understandably, with those who have made them the most consistent team in Test cricket over the past couple of years, intruducing only one newcomer, Matthew Elliott, a tall lefthanded opener from Victoria who has replaced Michael Slater through sheer weight of

They have not lost a series at home since the West Indies were last here, four years ago. Even with Lloyd's influence on the opposition It is hard to see them losing this one.

INDEPENDENT **■** FOOTBAI

LATEST RESULTS AND TOP 50 TEAMS

Top Fifty League Table

CALCULATED ON MATCHES	PLAYED FROM 17 AUGUST	
	TEAM	POINTS
John Coxs	Southfill F.C.	399
S. A. Scott	Foreign Back Bone	391
Chris Scott	Bruce Lee F.C.	389
raul Gazzaru		383
Aaron Jones	Cathron 2	379
Adam Hogg	Blaggy Hogg	379
S. King	Cruising Alexandra	379
Carl Director	Blaggy Hogg Cruising Alexandra Maple Mousse E Tessa's Little Marvels	379
Steven Lawrence		
Stephen Hart	Kees Cowboys	378
Andrew Burman	Wimbledon Stupid Head	378
LM Set		378
lan Boyle		377
D.L. Robinson	Tank For England	375
Paul Macbray 5. Wells	Championase I	374
The states	I ME UNEQUENHATES	374
Keith Horry	Organic Manure F . C .	374
C.M. Down	The Deals Reserves	
G. Lake David Robinson	Basket Of Eggs	374
David Robinson Jonathan McCrossen	Double B	
	Washtops Army I Know Your Wife	374
Robert Northcroft		
Peter Shelock M. Crossland	Lincoln St. Giles	373
M, Crossland	Osney C. Lyons	373
Peter Frankental	Arlensiu	373
M Stroud		373
Steve Payne	Mondafield Tuesday	373
Mr Andrew Clark		372
David Edmonson	Edmo United	372
Mr D. Cannon		372
Kristov Baerwald	Tom and Phillip	372
Mr S. Warley	Independence Move	371
Husam Sathry	I'm Off To France United	371
Michael Daws	That's Handy Harry	371
Dr Tom Boyle	Last Gasp Gullits	370
Dr Steven Machews	Imperial Bettes	370
Mr J Lippitt	Class Sheet	370
Mr Keith Watson	Elementary Opportunits	370
Mr David Ashton	The Lodgers	370
Mr. R. Pringle	Deepdale Villa 7	370
Mr Peter Frankental	lose Marti	370
Mr joe Cahill	The Fat Lady Sings	370
Mr Steve Basnett	Bazzy's Defençe	
Mr R D Balor	Baiter Boys 5	369 - 369
Mr G Jones	Abbey Last United	369
Mr Francis Henderson	1 . Secondary Celtic	369
Mr Barry Lee	Lee Manor	369
Hr A Vickers	Football Magic	369
Mr Steve Payne	No Future in Fucray	368
Mr jake Globons	Champagne Sleeping Ow	368, 3
Mr John Perkins	Hamoaze Racing F C	368
Ms Lucy Craction	Earloon	368
Mr Nick Knight	Knight's Nana Heads	368
Mr Steven Thorne		368
	Tricking biningskingerg 2	368
Mr Darren Green		.568

Today we publish the latest results in pendent Bullary Football managers and their on Sunday. Terms and conditions are as previous Independent Fantasy Football remainded by published and are available upon request.

game, supported by Philips Angels Standay 10 November.

PRIZES Energy Saver Light Builds.

The Team Market and Scores table published. The Independent for all games played from the below, shows four scores. The Week 14 (Wk 14) column lists all points scored in matches played between Monday 11 November - Sunday 17 November inclusive. Column B lists all points scored before the transfer period. Column A lists all points scored after the transfer period. The Overall (Ov) column lists the total amount of points scored in all matches played from Saturday 17 August - Sunday 17 November.

Also published today is the Top 50 League table (see left). It lists the overall top scoring Inde-

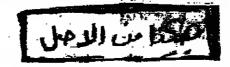
previous Monday to Sunday inclusive. They will also appear the following Sunday, in the Inde-pendent on Sunday. The overall 100 50 League table will be printed every Wednesday and again

SCORING SYSTEM

4 points for a goal ■ 4 points for a goalkeeper/defender clean sheet = 3 points for a successful assist = 1 point when a player is selected and plays \blacksquare 1 point for a wirning goal \blacksquare 3 points for a manager win, I point for a draw = Lose I point for a

PRIZES

The overall winner at the end of the season will he the entrant who has accrued more points than any other-Independent Fantasy Football team in that time. Win the ultimate prize - a trip to the 1998 World Cup in France. The winmer, plus companion, will see all the action of aguarter-final and a semi-final of their choice, plus the final. In addition, the highest scoring team each month will win a pair of tickets to one of England's World Cup qualifying games



Flood of pride as Quest parades

Like every other National Hunt trainer in Britain. Terry Casey has spent the last few weeks praying for rain, but at 1.15 vesterday he must have wished he had done so with a little less fervour. Standing in a downpour, radio-mike in hand, he talked a party of lunch guests and journalists through his best prospects for the coming season, as the animals in question squelched forlornly around the said. "Any tendon problem is a paddock and his audience admired them from the shelter of the marquee which was steadidisappearing into Casey's back garden. By the time half a dozen or so horses had paraded, the trainer was drenched, and had it not been for his stout rubber wellingtons, the microphone might well have given him the shock of his life.

But then the final exhibit appeared, and it was as if the sun had come out. When you have the Grand National winner in your care even imminent hypothermia is easily ignored, and the pride with which Casey had discussed all of his charges rose by several notches. "This is Rough Quest," he said, "and he needs no introduction."

And what a sight he was. Every inch the chaser from the soles of his hooves to the top of his heavy, muscular frame, last year's National winner and Gold Cup runner-up has recently started serious exercise and is, according to Casey, "as well as I've ever seen him". He should soon be ready for his prep-race before the King George VI Chase at Kempton on Boxing Day, the first of three major targets in a projected campaign, which includes another attempt at both the Gold Cup and the National.

Greg Wood sees the Grand National winner step out for a new campaign

Just a few weeks ago, though, even the prep-race was hanging in the balance. "He came back so fresh and well, and he managed to bruise a tendon," Casey worry, particularly with such a handicap will rise to 12 stone, heavy-topped horse, but Guy Harwood generously allowed us to use his swimming pool to exercise him and now he has been back cantering for two weeks."

As a result, Andrew Wates, Rough Quest's owner, can plot a path for his chaser which leads back to Aintree in April. "We won't go to the King George un-less he's had a run first," Wates said, "and the Rehearsal Chase at Chepstow [on 7 December] is the most likely choice, but he's still a novice over hurdles, so we could even run him in a hurdle."

It is seven months since Wates, one of National Hunt's most enthusiastic owners, cnjoved the most important success of his life. Even now his pride has not started to dissipate, while the memory of the 20minute stewards' inquiry into possible interference between Rough Quest and Encore Un

sense of humour in yesterday's Peu on the run-in is also fresh. downpour, but one observer "It was a new level of stress," managed to raise a smile. William Hill make Rough Quest Wates said. "I was quite confident when I saw it side-on from their 16-1 favourite for the 1997 the stands, but then Des Lynam National, a race which is five showed me the head-on and it months' distant and for which the weights will not be published looked horrendous, and I thought it was going to be tight. until mid-February. Unbridled But Rough Quest went by quite mirth at this derisory quote is refast, and he was two or three strained only by the thought that lengths clear when he crossed there may be punters out there over. He does go left, and always

has, so perhaps we need to school Mick Fitzgerald to car-ry his stick in his left hand." The 27-runner field, which Rough Quest led home in April, was the smallest for the National in a quarter of a century. At Aintree racecourse, there is a keen desire to ensure that the numbers are not similarly depleted this year, and changes have been made to the conditions of the race. The top-weight in the while at the overnight stage the maximum burden will be raised. if necessary, to 11st 10lb rather than 11st 7lb, to allow more runners into the handicap proper. These changes will apply to all handicap chases over three and At the same time, the minimum rating to qualify for the race will drop from 120 to 110. while the return from a twoweek to three-week gap between the Cheltenham and Aintree Festivals should also boost the field, which will be racing for record added prize-money of £250,000. "Our objective is to attract class horses, while at the same time producing a field as close as possible to the safety number of 40," Charles Barnett, Aintree's man-It was hard to maintain a

> Reflections of greatness: Rough Quest is accompanied by his owner, Andrew Wates, (left) and trainer, Terry Casey, as he goes on show yesterday

who are daft enough to take it. Royal return of £51 on the Tote for 5-1 winner

Fine Suny prospects course, John Williams, said: Hopes are high that normal service can be resumed for racing today despite the first cold snap of the winter. Each of the three tracks scheduled to race missed the worst of the weather which

wiped out yesterday's Wether-No problems are expected at Haydock, which sees the reappearance of last year's Chel-tenham Gold Cup third,

Couldnt Be Better, in the Edward Hanner Memorial Chase. It is a similar story at Here-ford, where the clerk of the

"We had a bare covering of snow but it went in 10 minutes." And at Kempton a course spokesman explained: "We had quite a hit of snow but nothing settled because it was raining.

Nevertheless, Charlie Brooks is taking no chances over a preprace for his leading Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup hope Surry Bay, whom he has declared for both the Limber Hill Chase at Kempton and the Edward Hanmer at Haydock, Kempton is the preferred destination.

The all-weather meeting at Lingfield just about survived an inch of rain in an hour to stage yesterday's meeting but the Tote blew a fuse which result-

ed in a freak dividend for the

first winner that was 10 times

a half miles or more.

aging director, said.

greater than the starting-price. Racing started 15 minutes late because of the wet conditions and there was no oncourse Tote betting in the opener. The "machine" managed to work for the next three races but was out of action again for the last three contests.

The Tote's racecourse man- delayed opening race, he was for Sunday's £1m contest, was ager, Jennifer Hurley, explained:
"Our computer wouldn't talk to the Wigan computer for the

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Unguided Missile (Haydock 2.10) NB: Jultara (Hereford 2,30)

first race. Then it froze after the off for the fourth race and we had to pay out manually." When Royal Action won the

returned at a starting-price of 5-1. But he paid £51.30 to a £1 stake on the Tote because of the computer fault at the track Tote wagers were possible only via course-to-course betting at Newton Ahbot and Wetherby

and at betting shops. Five days before his Japan Cup attempt, Helissio was crowned champion of Europe last night in the sixth annual Cartier awards. The Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe winner, currently in Tokyo being prepared

also acclaimed best three-yearold colt for winning most points in pattern races. Bosra Sham was top three-year-old filly. The dual French Group One

winner Revoque was champion two-year-old, although patternrace points gave Bahamian Bounty and Pas De Reponse the titles of best two-year-old colt and filly respectively.

Frankie Dettori received an award of merit in recognition of riding all seven winners at the Ascot Festival in September.

KEMPTON

12.50 Ragamuffin Romeo 1.20 Feel The Power 1.50 Halona 2.20 Suny Bay (nb) 2.50 Chapras-si 3.20 Berude Not To 3.50 Quini Eagle

VG: Good to Soft ■ Right-hand course. Practically flat. Run-m of 200yet.
■ Course is on A308 at Sambury. Reminton Park rathway station adjourse course. ADMISSION: Club & Tattersaile \$10 (14 to 25-year-olds 28); Silver Ring \$7. Accompanied children under: 10 free. adjouts course ADMISSION: Club & T year-olds \$8); Sdyet Ring \$5. Accompanie GAE PARK: Members \$2; remainder in

BLINBEREII FURST TIME: None. WINNEES IN LAST SEVEN DATS: Super Taction (J 241 won at Newbury on Wednesday LONG HISTANCE BUNNERS: High Grade (2 50) has ben sent 158 miles by Moss S Wikon from Wedey Rocks, Staffordshire.

12.50 UXBRIDGE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F)

l			£2,650 added 2m
ı	1	23-4	BELLA SEDONA (16) (BF) Lady Hernes 4 12 0 J Power (
1	1 2 3		PROME OF LIFE (550) Eustice 6 11 8
l	3		SAILEP (FR) (16) R Hodges 4 11 6 T Descript
ı	4 5 6 7		CANARY FALCON (29) R O'Subsan 5 11 5 N Withmangton (
ı	5		RED UGHT (15) Jenkins = 11.3
ł	6	330-362	SHIFT AGAIN (16) (BF) O Sherwood 4 11 1 D Thomas (3)
ľ	7	332312	RAGAMUFFIN ROMED (12) (D) (BF) H Savyer 7 11 0
ı			
ı			

POO- ALL OWER RED ROVER (256) A Carroll 4 10 2 __Clark Webb PR:33- NOTHERS DOING (275) W Musson 7 10 0 ______ K Garde - 9 dectured -BETTING: 3-1 Acids Seriona, 7-2 Shift Again, 4-1 Sallep, 6-1 Camery Pai-cha, 8-1 Red Light, Ragamurina Romen, Nathing Doing, 12-1 others 1.20 STAINES NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D)

Ľ	£5,100 added 2m
1	31001-1 MULIGAN (12) (D) O Nicholson 6 11 6
2	26123 FEEL THE POWER (251) K Baley 5 11 0
3	3/001. MATHESMAN SPANIES (237) Or O Chesney 6 11 0 .5 Burrough
1	(A1P-4) WEDE MARC (26) (89) C Brooks 6 11 0
-	(INC: means Fool The Power, 5-4 McMgan, 10-1 White Mesic, 12-1 Marie I Spartes
	50 EBF 'NATIONAL HUNT' NOVICE HURDLI (QUALIFIER) (CLASS D) £3,750 added 2r

	1	L50	EBF "NATIONAL HUNT" NOVICE HURDLE (QUALIFIER) (CLASS D) £3,750 added 2m
	1	OG-	DERRING JACK (214) A Caros 5 11 0
	Ž		FAR SPIRITES (258) N Bailey 5 11 0
	3	S100-	LINE OF CONQUEST (319) A Hodges 6 11 0 IN WILLIAMON
	4		MR HEND A Foster 4 11 0Derek Byrne
	5	6	MY SHENDROOM (15) H Ower 5 11 0
	6	6	NOT FOR TURNING (231) O Shewood 5 11 0
	7	55/0-	PHYSICAL FUN (411) A BURNTONE 5 11 0 D Sigrams
	В		RED TEL (19) M Poe 4 11 0 A P McCoy
	9	013-	NOTAL EVENT (221) O Gardolo 5 11 0
	10		SHANNON LAD (21) A Carol 6 11 0
	11		SIR DANTE (25) R Rose 5 11 0
	12		STRONG PALADON (ZZ1) Galord 5 11 0 P Hide
	13		TELLM (182) Mrs / Person 5 11 0
	14		BAY FAIR (238) / Businy 4 10 9M Richards
	15		HALONA (203) C Brooks 5 10 9 D Collegior
	16		TREMPLIN IN Henderson 5 10 9 M A Phoperate

BETTREE: 7-2 Trempile, 5-5 Royal Overs, 5-1 Not For Turning, 7-1 For Springs, 8-1 Hatema, 10-1 Strong Palentin, Rest Tel, 14-1 others

	2.20	LIMBER HILL CHASE (LIMITED HANDICAP) (CLASS B) £7,000 added 2m 4f 110yds
1		SURY BAY CHE CONST 11 T
2		TRYING AGAIN (217) (C) O Cardado 8 11 3
3	1-24171	WISE APPROACH (21) (D) K Baley 9 10 9
4	<i>3</i> 11F3-	OLD BRIDGE (215) (D) A Turnel 810 9
5	231-211	SUPER TACTICS (7) (CD) R Amer 8 10 7
6	131911/	BO XNOWS BEST (578) G L Moore 7 10 7 A P McCoy
7	R7F51-4	LACKERDARA (33) (C) Mes H Wingto 9 10 7 B Fember

- 7 declared -Minimum weight: 10st 7th, True handicap weights: Super Tactics 9st 13th, Bo Anows Gest for 17th Lacterdara Set 9th.

BETTHER: 7-4 Trying Again, 2-1 Story Buy, 6-1 When Approach, 8-1 Super Tection, 18-1 Lacterdara, 12-1 Old Bridge, 18-1 Se Kenne Best

2.50 HANWORTH HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) £5,000 added 2m 5f 4111 CHAPTASS (207) M Poe 7 11 10 A P McCoy
05-305-2 HGM GRADE (12) Mes 5 Wittin 8 11 1 N Williamson
01 THE TOSSACH (243) (0) I Faretone 5 11 0 P Hole
5233-2 WELSHAMN (400) (5 M Barshard 10 10 13 D) Selenters

| October 1230-53 TM (4) 1 Jerters 6 10 6....

3.20 HALLIFORD NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,100 added 3m

1 00121 FRETHINE CLASCI Mr. A Perce 7 116 M. A Piccond

- 4 disclored --BETT#42: 4-8 Berudu Not Yo, 3-1 Fine Thyon, 18-1 Occomunction, 12-1 Ap-

50	FRENCH STREET STANDARD OPEN NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,550 added 2m
	FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,550 added 2m
	CHARLE BANGER K Burke 4 11 4
a	DERRYS PRENDGATIVE (STT) A Carol 8 11 4
-	PEOCLER'S LEAP MESS H Prints 4 11 4 J October
5.	JACK GALLAMBER (205) Mice 8 Serviers 5 11 4 JM Michards
	JACKHO (4) Mess J Bower 4 11 4
	LIVELY ENCOUNTER (242) Mis Maries Jones 5 11 4
-	Dersk Dyrne
	MINE'S MUSIC O Greek 5 11 4 B Feston
	MILITARY LINE LESS H Krist's 5 11 4T J Marphy
	MORMANDY DUTE DOD C MEET 4 11 4 Margae (5)
Or.	PROVATE MEMORIES (625) A Caroli 6 11 4
2	QUICK BOWLER (182) O Nicholson 4 11 4 R Minesey (8)
2	ORION EAGLE (FR) (11) M Pice 4 11 4 A P McCoy
40	
3	SIGNANGRA (600) K Batey 6 11 4
	SOU SOU WESTERLY & Weedon 5 11 4
	SPRING SEADE S Dow 4 11 4A Diction
	STAUSSORE C Brooks 4 11 4 D Callagher

SET Aless) Boxer 4 10 13 _____ K Quade (2)

-20 declared -BETTING: 5-2 Quick Bowler, 5-1 Schoots, 6-1 Fiddler's Loup, 7-1 Quick Engle, 5-1 Military Law, Storneytainwest more, 12-1 Feeboo Pive, 15-1 others

FREEEE FIVE S Woods 4 10 13.

HEREFORD

HYPERION 1.00 Fursan 1.30 Millies Own 2.00 Glowing Path 2.30 What's Your Story 3.00 Lets Be Frank 3.30 Bishops Castle 4.00 Kosheen

GOING: Good to Soft (Good in places) Beight-hand course with 1921/d run-in.
Course is N of city on A 19. Hereford station 1m. ADMISSION:
Club & 12: Tatersalls 59; Course Environment 5.5, CAR FARK: Free. SIS RACING CHAIRSEL

SLINGERED FIRST TIME: None.
WINNERS IN THE LANT SEVEN DAYN: None.
LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Wayuphill (1.30) & Lonety Rascal.
(4.00) sext. "I'U miles by J.4 O'Neill from Skelton Wrood End, ("umbril.

.0	0	MARDEN NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E £3,000 added 3YO 2m 1f
		SHERIAN MYSTIC (22) P Murphy 11 0
		COME ON IN R Dicker: 10 12 X Alapara (7)
		CROWN AND CUSHION Greathead 10 12
	0	DEDX CARR (11) 536 Jones 10 17 V Swith
		FURSAN N Teiston-Daves 10 17 0 Bridgester
	Q	GRASSHOPPER (14) Spearing 10 12
		IRISH KINSMAN G Yarte, 10 12 JR Karanaga
		MOBILE COLDURAS S Grandes 10 12
	P	PALLETON (3.5) N Retrop 10 1.7
	5	QUIET MOMENTS (22) P Murphy 10 12 A Forrant
		WARRIONS REEF C Poprom 10 12 R Johnson
		WORTH THE BELL F Indian 10 12 S Wysee
	5	FORMENTERE (41) J h 1 Staties 10 7 Mar A Waste (7)
	62	LADY MAGNEM (18) I flexile 10 7
	03	LITTLE KENNY (41) T Was 10 7 B Poned V

SECRET CET Mrs J Parson 10 7 BETTHE: 3-1 Fursio, 9-2 Secret GH, 5-1 Warning Reaf, 6-1 Sherian Mys-tic, 7-1 Little Kenny, 8-1 Lady Magnum, 12-1 others 1.30 BACTON AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £3,800 added 2m 3f

- 13 declared Winnaum weight: 10st 7th. True handloop weights: Opal's Tenaput, Prudert Peg§, Rhoman Fun 10st Ab, Ennstymen 10st 2b, Strange Wuye 9er 12th, Salcomer remour ye do BETTING: 5-2 Where's Wille, 7-2 Horthern Optimist, 4-1 Poppets Pet, 6-1 Milles Com, 10-1 Wayophill, 12-1 Forgrow, Predert Peggy, 19-1 others

2.00 BRIDSTOW SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,500 added 2m 1f 1 3F345-0 LAWRISHOOD JUNIOR | 140 (D) | Spearing 9 12 0....

Minimum weight 10st. The handcap weights: Scale Em 9st 130, Brest 9st

2.30 BOGMARSH NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 added 3m 1f 110yds

9 4 RENTOWN RUSE (46) Mas A Embrace 7 10 7 J Ryen
10 595.F3 RWING (1987E) (46) Mas A Embrace 7 10 7 J Ryen
11 5970-73 RWING (1987E) (25) N Inciden Davies 6 10 7 ... J Ryen
11 5970-74 What's Your Story, 3-1 Doe De Cadena, 5-1 Author, 7-1 Swing
Quartert, 8-1 Minuset Serrards, 10-1 Pichertotome, 12-1 utiliers

3.00 BISHOPS FROME NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 3f

110yds 0000-22 LETS BE FRANK (7) N Cure: 5 11 10 ... 3 00754-1 RALING THAC (THI (D) 0 Survive 511.1 D.1 Berchell
55002-5 YOLNG TRESS (A2) (Broom 511.2 L. Mr A Brown
5 PP-4115 RAMEN'S ROUST (THI (Q) 6 Jones 511.2 L. M. Griffiths (T)
6 5009-1 STEEL GEM (A43) PROTE 7.11.2 L. M. Griffiths (T)
7 0732-10 CLOD HOPPER (T) W Mar 511.1 A Bates (S)
8 0-23-5 ROMAN TERMUL W 12) X BROWN 511.1 R. Greece
9 500-670 PARISSAN (208) (Brivet 11.10.5 L. Marrey
10 000-000 RUNS LLCY (200) F Incline 510.5 S. S. Wyome
11 000-000 AUNE LLCY (200) F Incline 510.5 S. Mr Market
11 000-000 AUNE (MR MARTSOCRA) (225) F Itan 6.10.5 S. Mr Market
11 000-000 AUNE (MR MARTSOCRA) (225) F Itan 6.10.5 S. Mr Market
12 000-000 AUNE (MR MARTSOCRA) (225) F Itan 6.10.5 S. Mr Market
13 000-000 AUNE (MR MARTSOCRA) (225) F Itan 6.10.5 S. Mr Market
14 000-000 AUNE (MR MARTSOCRA) (225) F Itan 6.10.5 S. Mr Market
15 000-000 AUNE (MR MARTSOCRA) (225) F Itan 6.10.5 S. Mr Market
16 000-000 AUNE (MR MARTSOCRA) (225) F Itan 6.10.5 S. Mr Market
17 000-000 AUNE (MR MARTSOCRA) (225) F Itan 6.10.5 S. Mr Market
17 000-000 AUNE (MR MARTSOCRA) (225) F Itan 6.10.5 S. Mr Martsocran
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18 000-000 AUNE (MR MARTSOCRAN) (225) F Itan 6.10.5 S. Mr MARTSOCRAN (225) F ITAN 10 001/000 RUNS LLCY (226) F Jordan S 10 5 _____ S Wyene
11 000/00 AUTHORY ARISTOCKAT (226) F Loyd 6 10 5 .___ S Michell
12 000/60 OUT OF THE BLUE (18) M 50/4; 4 10 3 ___ J Micyland (1) V 23 00005 ARROSO 1985 I Nestran 6 102 C Hogas (3) 14 00090 FORSURES (579) 4 James 7 10 2 B Powel 15 903-604 OTTER PRINCE (24) 7 George 7 10 0 R Paraset

- 15 declared - 17. Against the Clock 93 70.

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3.30 BRIDGE SOLLARS NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £4,000 added 2m 10FP-10 TENNYESTELINK (SA) (D BF) O Maris 6 11 4... J A MeCharby
446525 (MRCS SHILLING (SQ) H OMER 9 11 1... lectur) Obver
64600-3 SCOTTISH BAMBO (122) P Westor 8 10 11.... A Thornton
APOLALP. NOVINNE (1931) P Westor 9 10 9... Mr A Westor (P D A)
DOCALS. NOVINNE (1931) P Westor 9 10 9... Mr A Westor (P D A)
DOCALS. NOVINNE (1931) P Westor 9 10 0... B Powell
1007634 NOVINNE (1935) A Vision 7 10 0... B Hopes
11 0076479 CHERRY CRICKO (144) / Necotror 9 10 0... B Hopes
12 000549 BANKONTHY (1938) (ST) C Poption 5 10 0... 7 O'COURT (7)
00549 BANKONTHY (1938) (ST) C Poption 5 10 0... 7 O'COURT (7)
00549 BANKONTHY (1938) (ST) C Poption 5 10 0... 7 O'COURT (7)
00559 BANKONTHY (1938) (ST) C Poption 5 10 0... 7 O'COURT (7)
00559 BANKONTHY (1938) (ST) C Poption 5 10 0... 7 O'COURT (7)
00559 BANKONTHY (1938) (ST) C POPTION 5 10 0... No. 10 0... No

12 ODDS-P BANKORINT LORD (37) C Poptian 5 10 0 ... 7 O'Constar (7)
13 OS-6 THE FENCE SHEINER (19) 0 McCan 5 10 0 ... D Waleh (3)
13 declared Minorum weight: DOS. The handlesp weights: Wor No Gin 9st 12b, Cherry Orchal, Bankord's Lord. The Fence Stathler 9st 7b.
BETTINK: 3-1 Bishops Castle, 4-1 Nordic Velloy, 6-1 Tempestudign, 7-1
fishmed Rembler, 8-1 Poucher, Scottist Barahl, 12-1 others.

4.00 WEATHERBYS 'STARS OF TOMORROW'
MARES NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,600 added 2m 1f

FUN WHILE IT LASTS 7 Forster 5 11 0... A Bates (6) FALSTOCK MEGGE (283) Mrs J Potton 6 11 0... R Roger R)
POLIERTON'S DIESAN Mrs 0 Thomas 6 11 0... R Roger R)
POLIERTON'S DIESAN Mrs 0 Thomas 6 11 0... Say Lawfs (3)
SAVER QUAL 0 Bading 5 11 0... Mrs A Badding (7)
TRINCER'S CLISS 0221 A Area 5 11 0... D Wash (3) (5)
TOMADERON'S HARVEST R Hodges 4 11 0... J Hearls (7) WDONETKA CAL N Truston Daves 4 11 0 A Sethern (7

BETTONG: 2-1 Wanneller Cal. 5-1 Lovely Rescal, 6-1 Just Assassa, 8-1 Koshmen Meistock Meggie, 10-1 Torrorrows Harvest, 12-1 others

THE INDEPENDENT RACING SERVICES 0891 261 + 972 982 973

LINGFIELD 12.20: 1. ROYAL ACTION (M.Waham) 5-1; 2. Catambella 7-4 (at.: 3. Kazimiara 7-1. 7 ran, 5, 8, // Bardes). Totac £51.30; £1.90, £2.10. OF: £7.80. CSF. £13.49. NR: Rash Gift. No 7 Rash Gift was withdrawn not under orders. Rule 4 does not apply; no market

12 50: 1 DOLENE RUSH (S Sarders 11-4

12.50: 1.0008LE RUSH (S Sanders) 11-4 tor, 2. Merantata 5-1: 3. Comedy River 10-1. 3 ren. 4: 5, 7 Mills). Toter £4.50; £2.10. £1.70, £1.50 DF: £9.00. CSF: £16.06. Incost: £111.37. Troc. £13.00 1.20: 1.885000 ID Bogs: 14-1. 2. Menter [BBMold 5-1: 3. Hoofprints. evens for 7 ren. 2, ré. 6 Woods: Toter £12.30; £5.80, £2.10. DF: £26.70. CSF: £74.43. Tricost: £122.78. Troc. £36.20 ASF: Étote de Nord. Forssmen Deuger Forgotten Dancer 1.50; 1. THAI MORNING (G Duffield) 5-2

Fred 10-1, 12 zan. 2%, 31 z. (P Harris), Total: £3.30, £1.50, £2.30, £2.40, DF: £27.00. 2.20: 1. HENLEY ID R MCGOOT 7-2; 2. Milroy 7-1; 2. Boother 16-1; 13 ran, 2-1 for Wild Siv. (45h; 7-, 3-, (D Loden, Totas; 0.5-6; 11-70, 11-80, 64-20, DF; 530-20, CSF; 129-27, Trox; 1197-20 (part word, 1250; 1. TRSSUE OF LIES (M Roberts) 5-2 fax; 2. Passage Crottplag 3-1; 3. Questing Star 9-2, 8 ran, Nr, 17-18 (M Johnston), Totas; 2-30; 11-10, (11-0), (27-40, DF; 113-10, CSF; 110-29)
3-20; 1. Appendix M Person, 7-1-2 2.20: 1. HENLEY ID R McCapel 7.2: 2

3.20: 1. ADAMTON IM Roberts 7.2: 2. 3.50: 1 TWIN CREEKS IC Rusten 9-1;

RACING RESULTS Havel Storm 16-1: dead-heat 3. Utmost Zeel 10-1, 13 res. 17., 17., (V Scanet. Tota: £20.50; £4.80, £2.10. Utmost Zeel £1.10. Hasker Storm £0.80. DF: £18.90. CSF: £24.88. Tricast: Irwn DF: £18.90. CSF: £24.98. Incast Iwan Creeks, Smithereers, Primosi Zed £23.43, Iwan Creeks, Smithereers, Planca Storm £128.89. Inc. 4.5-6 £10.40. 4-5-12 £52.90. NR: Greatest. Quadpot: £45.60. Placepot: £196.60.

Place & £92.38. Place 5: £49.26. NEWTON ABBOT 1.00:1 LIRBAN LET (J Pans) 3:1; 2: Yet Again 13:2; 3: Festini Gold 4:1: 8 res. 9-4 lav Denormation 157h; 1/-, 10: IR Hodgos, Someriant, Teter 24:10: £1.70. £3.20. 0F: £7.80. CSF: £20.41. 1.30: 1. ORSWELL LAB (F. Durwood) 11-4; 2. Festrot Romes 9-2; 3. Country

er 33-1. 8 ran. 9-4 fav Strong Tarquin

(6th). Shr. hd. 15, (P Hobbs, Myrchead). Tota: £4,00; £1.50, £2.30, £3.30. DF; £10.10. (AOC) E1.50, E2.30, E3.30, DF: E10.10.
CSF. E14.61, Tracsc 1291.21, Tro: not won.
NR: Coney Road, Crown Ivory, Iac Del Prince
2.00: 1. LAKE KARREA (A P McCoy) 2-1
for: 2. Devon Peessent 9-4; 3. Nordannoe
Prince 9-4, 12 cm. 15. 18, P Nctots, Sheplon Mutien. Tota: £2.90: £1.50, £1.60,
£1.90. DF: £2.50, CSF: £7.67. Tro: £1.60,
£3.00: 1. FLOW RP Powesh 7-1; 2. Bransbiehiti Buck 7-2; 3. Dorn Seascenti 8-1, 8
ras. 100-30 g fav Rocky Park (4th). 2, ni.
(R Bockér, Snépont, Totae: £8.20; £2.00,
£2.00, £2.10, DF: £39.60, CSF: £30.17. Trcsct £184.05, Ino: £27.00, NR: Andre Leai,
Lahngford Lokes.
3.00: 1. SPARKUNG YASSANI (B Powes)
6-1; 2. Holdinnolose 10-1; 3. Oetts Rosse
10-1, 9 ran. 9-4 fav Batarak (5th). Strind,
18, (P Hottos, Minchesoft, Totae; £5.90; £1.70,
£3.90, £1.70, DF: £51.10, CSF: £57.56, Tel-

cast: £540,77. Tno: £162,40. NR: Blazer Monniere, Chaprassi. 3.50; 1. WELL TIMED (J Frost) 7-2; 2. James The First 6-4: 3. Rex to The Rescue 3-1. 4 ren. Sht-hd, 7. (R Frost. Bucklastlegh). Tota: £4.10. DF: £3.50. CSF: £8.87. NR: Mass Mangold.
4.00: 1. IRANOS A P McCoyl 9-4 tex; 2. Never in Dobt 10-1: 3. April Seventh 16-1. 11 ran. 11. 2. (M Pros. Wellington). Total £4.20: £1.10, £2.50, £3.60, DF: £15.10. CSF: £25.79.700: £73.10. NR: Baba Sam.

Yesterday's card at Wetherby became the first meeting of the jump season to be abandoned after persistent and heavy snow showers left the course unraceable.

PALDOCK

1_10 Marello 1_40 Saint Ciel

2,40 TURNPOLE (nap) 3.10 Potato Man 3.40 Halle Derring 2.10 Unguided Miss

GCHNG: Good.

Eleft-hand course with imposing drop fences and nun-in of two fortougs.

Course with imposing drop fences and nun-in of two fortougs.

Course in near junction of A780 and MS. Newton station 2m. ADMISSRON: Co.

Sl4; Tantermaks 58; Newton Sound 53,50 (OAPs half-price in Tuttersalls and New CAR PARK: Free. GOONG: Good. Left-band com

ELEADING TRAINERS WITH EUNNERS: G Bichards - 28 winners from 97 numers gives a success ratio of 38.9% and a loss to a £1 level stake of £11.71; M C Pipe - 26 winners, 118 runners, 22.9%, 552.16; N A Twistons-Davies - 18 winners, 55 runners, 24.1%, +£10.80; Mrs M Esveley - 11 winners, 67 runners, 22.4%, 57.71.

**ELEADING JUCKETS: R Danswoody - 18 winners, 65 tides, 27.7%, £12.94; M Dwyer - 17 winners, 106 rides, 16.2%, £48.09; 11 Bridgewater - 11 winners, 35 rides, 31.4%, +£12.88; A Magnithr - 11 winners, 52 tides, 21.2%, £20.63.

BLINERSERD FIRST TIME: None.

WINNERSE IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.**

LUNG-DETIANCE REDINERS: Pelecunto (2.40) has been sent 209 miles by M C Pipe from Michigaintyne, Devou; Country Store (3.40) est. 171 miles by A Jones from Eastbury, Michigaintyne, Devou; Country Store (3.40) est. 171 miles by Michigaintyne, Devou; Country Store (3.40) est.

110 NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS POLICE MARES NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,750 added 2m Penalty Value £2,885

— 11. decared —

ETTRIC: Evens Queen of Spades, 8-4 Marvillo, 10-1 fraginery Sen View, 12-1 Bridled Tern, 20Pression Engls, 25-1 Olibernat News, 23-1 others
105: Queers Consul 5 10 12 R Supple 4-6 (8 S Rothwell) 8 rim

FORM QUIDE

Is it significant that QUIEEN OF SPADES won her hurdle at Wetherby in a faster time than Massillo's bumper wins at Ayr and on this course? Maybe not in view of Misrello's wins with something in hand, but Queen Of Spades has conquered the jumping discipline and she gallops for fur over this trip (outsteyed by See More Business at Chepstion over further). She has come from the bumper league looking a hardy mare and was 4set satisfactor. The Misrello stable, gising on to win at Ayr last Friday after the 18-length beating, Marello has the talant, with a very cheety win here a fortnight ago when always looking the part. She gets 7th from Queen Of Spades, which is a real help on her jumping debur, and Peter Niven index her for the first time, but she needs to stay as well as quicken in this rain-offened gound. The only other of note is Bridded Terms, brushed asade with ease by Marello here and now 10to worse off. That was her first attempt since showing bumper promise 19 months ago, so she is entitled to improve. Selection: QUEEN OF SPADES

1.40 LIVERPOOL HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,750 added 2m Penalty Value £2,759

FORMA GAIDE

SAIRIT CIEL rates a snip on a course where he has won three times. He usually comes on for a run and has his car in the ground today after his seasonal second to Chet-Yo on good ground here a fortright ago. Handicapped enough (2th higher) on his latest course win form Bold Acre and Abbot Of Furmers in February, Saint Ciel is ferciled to handle the conditions better than Desert Fighter. A fast-ground performer who won at Wetherby on his reappearance, Desert Fighter failed to confirm the form with the fourth, these Route, on the slower surface there next time when 6th worse off, Further rain would seriously dampen his chance today. Baroballat had a warm-up run on the Fist a fortright ago. However, he looked the part at Kelso a year ago after on eye-catching run, only to be out stayed in the soft by lympen Johnny, Circus Line will be a stronger horse after two nowce white test season and Mark Dayor is a good booking, Circus Line has a real chance at the weights, but he wants faster ground and was besten with Richard Durmondy at Bangor 13 months ago. Holders Hill rain for Mark O'Toole in the Trumph Hundle and, though his Wetherby run 19 days ago was wented, this looks tough for him under 12st.

2.10 EDWARD HANMER MEMORIAL CHASE (LIMITED HANDI-CAP) (CLASS B) £15,000 added 3m Penalty Value £10,036 QUEXALL CROSSETT (7) (Mrs Keren Woodhead) E Came 11 10 5

-5 declared
Alignmy weight: 10st 5b. True handiosp weight: Quival Dessett 4st 8ts.

BETTIME: 7-4 Galois Cavaller, 5-2 Unguided Milania, 7-2 Conduct the Better, Suny Boy, 100-1 Quiv all Consent: 1995: Country Se Setter S 11 6 G Bradley 11-8 IC P E Brooks! S ran

1965: Couldn't Be Better 8 11 6 G Bradley 11-6 rt or to process or not FORM GUIDE.

Charite Brooks has a declared a first preference at Kernpton for Suny Bay, who has the Hennessy as his first major objective. Suriy Bay would incur 4 Allo penalty for Newbury if Successful here, but would secupe the extra poundage should be win at Kernpton. The roce is bicky with Galles Cavalley tried over a longer trip, Couldn't Be Better racing off a much higher rating since less year's win and UNGUIDED MISSILE. For twanting the ground roce is birty with Gales Cavaller gled over a longer trip, Couldst the Better rocing of a much higher rating since last year's win and UNRUIDED MISSILE not wenting the ground too soft. Unguided Missile gets the weight and looks the part with the stable going so well. Given an excellent rise by Richard Durwoody to bis Rough Quest on the fine at Ascott in December, Unguided Missile Later lost to a couple of well handicapped types in Percy Smollett on a return to Aecot and Masmur in the Ritz Cuts at Chetentian. A blander five out rulned whetever chence he had against Scotton Banks at Ammee afterwards, but this looks his rates as he can be relied upon to go well when fresh. Couldn't be Better is seen here when fresh and beer Chetenter and Supercycle fields with prometrical in hand in the ish and beat Ch also best when fresh and beat Chatam and Superior Firtish with pomething in hand in this near last year. He progressed to lend the Hermesey in testing ground and was still fresh when Brishing third in the Chelterham Gold Cup, However, he will find this tougher be-ing 1.36 higher shore the Hermesey and 1.76 higher compared with his win in this race. A amail field gives Gabes Cavaller every chance of staying after his Cheltenham win from Viving Flegship at the April meeting (2m 5h. He will come on for his second to Coulton at Exeter and the believed however of two seasons ago will like the ground, Qalatali Cros-sett is hard first before the passes the line. Selection: UNGUIDED MKSSILE

240 HINDLEY GREEN HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) £5,000 added 2m 4f Penalty Value £3,469

1116- TURNIFOLE (208) (D) (W J Williams) Mrs M Receiv 5 11 13 ______ Mrs Thomston 222-122 MYTTON'S CHOREE (11) Gordon Myton) O Nicholson 5 11 11 ______ Mrs Thomston 2222-1 A NICKONTO (10, RCO) 61 A Nickolson'S (11, RCO) 61 A Financial M Poe 6 11 7 ______ C Lieure 51611-1 TULLYMWRRY TOFF (46) (CD) (J H Wilson and Mr J H Risky) M Joffeson 5 11 5 ______ 5 14P- URR BURGENICRAT (NZ) (2539 Sturvey W Clarke S Brookstew 7 11 4 A Dobbbe 6 3/57611- URTLE GUMMER (RO1) (A W Bolley) R Pice 8 11 3 R Dummoody – 6 declared - 8ETTINE 2-3 Tempole, 31-4 Mythor's Cholice, 7-2 Polosanto, 5-1 Tullysomy Yort, 20-1 Little Gum-

way Pete 5 11 8 0 Bridgenter 1-3 (M Pipe) 3 can

PORMI GUIDE

Those who saw TURNPOLE'S run on the Flat at York last month will want to be on him today. Mary Revetey is womed that the handbasper has got to Tumpole and the plan is a chasing career if her thoughts are confirmed. But Tumpole can win this, even won the big weight. The race is competitive, but Tumpole is it from two Flat runs and that is definitely has ideal tip. Off the track until an eye-catching fifth to Beaumont at York, Tumpole can return to his winning ways in this company after losing his unbeaten record in the strong Antore race win by Pleasure Shared, where the sherp course found him out. Mystein's Choice handled the ground just so at Chepstow 11 days ago, but found his stablemans Castle Sweep a class above him. A decent sort when with Alan Balley, he is fancied for second over Palesambo, who may lack the page to score after only heaven. stablements Castile Sweep a class above him. A decent sort when with Alan Balley, he is fancied for second over Palesambe, who may lack the pace to score after only having to keep galloping to beat some poor heals here a lortnight ago. Tullymanry Toff stays well and gets exough weight ofter a Uttoweter win from Call My Guest on his reappearance. Tumpole, however, is chosen to beat him for pace. Little Guesser came good in two Bangor races last beckend and the stable has anapped up Richard Durmwoody. He can be expected to show up well even without recent action and is preferred to him Bureaucrat, who would not want the ground too soft, judged on his fast-ground with at Uttoweter a year asto.

Selections: TURNORED.

3.10 WARGRAVE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £6,500 added 2m Ponalty Value £4,349

1985: Time Won't Watt 6 11 9 J Railton 6-4 (R T Philips) 3 cm

The lest time Thumbis Up won he beer a certain Viking Flagship at Kempton. The old desh has been missing, but his new trainer, Gerham McCourt, has found a softer race after taking on Calicoe Boy of Stratford and Storm Alert at Ascot. On his first start since changing stables, POTATO MAN was sesond to Newtands-General at Newcaste when 1980 out of the handicap. Ne went on to win at Perth and Bangar teasity best Andermatit and, with his staying shifty and a recent Cartale run under his bott, he must have a lighting chance of beeting Thumbis Up, receiving almost two stone. Spanish Light is now trained by his owner after wine under the guidance of Gordon Richerds – three being gamed on this course. He looks a shade suppect with a big weight after pulling up at Cheltenham lest Fiddley. Rebell King's sole success from numerous starts less season was gained from Paglieccio at Sedgeficid on test ground. He could have trouble letering up with the others, while Memosighty Mean is also hard to consider.

3.40 EARLESTOWN HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,750 added 2m 7f 110yds

11501-1 HALE DESIGNS (II) (New Y Spokesies) N Telescon-Davies 8 12 2 (Best OPDI-16 SETTER BYTHE GLASS (I) (C) (N Telescon-Davies) N Telescon-Davies 7 11 9 ...

ETTIME: 1-2 Halle Detring, 3-1 Better Bythe Glose, S-1 Desert Porce, 10-1 Country Store, 25 1. Flet Top 1995: Smith 700 7 11 10 W Marston 7-4 (Mrs J Primari) 4 ran

1 Piet vop
1995; Smith 700 7 11 10 W Marston 7-4 (Mrt) Pitman) A ran
FORM GUIDE

HABLE DERRING started his winning roll fast season off e very low mark, but he continued to progress with three further wins and his demobbon of nine finals at Carlisle last week suggests he can continue he run even with the penelty. Desert Force is a proven fest-ground performer, so further rain would count against him over biday's longer thy after his Wannath win from modest opposition. Plat Top might have besten Golden Helio but for a tast lence fall of Westerby 19 days ago. He reverts to hurding and a longer trip off a hendeap mark 6th lower than when second to Our Sambridge at Lalcester (2m At) in Jerusny. Country Store wents the mud and can only be fitter for a recent Plumpoton ran. A Role race should come her way - the mars being well handleapped on her Chepstow that to Sun Surfer in March. Hate Derring's stablemate Better Bytte Glass returned from a rest to be well beaten behind Speriding Yasmin at Newton Abbot yesterday.

Rangers

in no

mood for

holiday

A vacation will be the last thing on the Rangers' players minds when they Grasshopper Zurich

at Ibrox tonight. Four successive defeats in the Champions League will have dented the

Scottish title holders' pride.

and they will have been stung

by the comments of the

Grasshopper striker Kubilay Turkyilmaz, who derided Rangers as "holiday-makers" following a 3-0 defeat in Zurich

in September.
Archie Knox, Rangers' assistant manager, is aware of a need for a disciplined performance as he is of his charges understandable indignation.

"It hasn't been discussed by

us on a team basis," he said,

"hut if the players individually

feel the need to respond to that

then that is up to them.

One indisciplined element of Rangers' European campaign will be missing. Paul Gascoigne is suspended tonight as he sits out the second of a four-match ban the second for his part and arminet.

imposed for his red card against

imposed for his red card against
Aj ix in Amsterdam last month.
But Richard Gough. Alex Cleland and Craig Moore can return
after suspensions, although Gordon Durie, Stuart McCall and
Alan McLaren are our injured.
Ally McCoist may start after
being on the substitutes' bench
for last Thursday's Old Firm

for last Thursday's Old Firm

win. McCoist has never scored in the Champions' League and, at 34, is naturally desperate to

Grasshopper can secure n

place in the quarter-finals, de

pending on how they fare and

Auxerre's result against Ajax in

Amsterdam, Turkyllmaz, mean-

Keane key to United's two sides

turmoil talentec file play ter United will we se: tonight? The Essex or mature one which follows t cruised to victory ishury, v

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over Fenerbahce in Istanhul a month ago - or the overawed version which was walked over by Juventus in September? Will it be the occasionally expansive. always resilient one which won the Double - or the hewil-dered United of recent weeks. England's Jekyll and Hyde

champions went some way to rediscovering their preferred personality in beating Arsenal at the weekend. Tonight at Old Trafford they need to complete their recovery. A revenge victory

better for the experience. They are not afraid of anything.

"It is a bonus to have Keane over Juventus in the Champions' League will almost secure their passage to the lucrative quarter-final stage. Defeat could allow Fenerbahce to ease past them.

These matches are often preceded by Alex Ferguson com-plaining that no other country would force their European representatives to play just days after a major Premiership fix-ture. This time the roles are reversed. While United played on Saturday Juventus faced Milan, and drew 0-0, on Sunday night. Preparation was further disrupted by bad weather which delayed yesterday's flight to Manchester. Then they are off to Tokyo, to play River Plate of Argentina in the Interconti-

nental Cup.
Since they appear sure to qualify for the Champions League quarter-finals, this schedule has led to suspicions that Juventus will not be entirely committed tonight. Ferguson dismissed such suggestions yes-terday noting that they still

needed one point to make sure. Two of the Juventus players who overwhelmed United in Turin have since suffered serious injuries. Gianluca Pessotto (Achilles tendon) and Antonio Conte (knee ligament). A third, Christian Vieri, is likely to be dropped. Moreno Torricelli, Angelo Di Livio and Vladimir

Which Manches- Jugovic are the likely replacements. All are internationals. United will be without Denis

Irwin and Gary Pallister but they can recall Roy Keane. Fergu-son said Karel Poborsky would drop out of the side which defeated Arsenal.

European teams are often described as being slower than English ones but an abiding memory of Turin is Gary Neville confessing his amazement at how fast Juventus were. "They overwhelmed us with their speed and power," said Ferguson, adding, "but our players are

hack. He's a hig game player. He raises himself for these games. He has everything, He's quick and aggressive and he passes to our men."

United's passing could be the key. They need to deprive Juventus of the ball while striving to maintain a high tempo of

Nearly 200 media will be present including the current coaches of England and Australia. There will also be two former Juventus players, the legendary John Charles and, in-terestingly, Fabrizio Ravanelli, of Middlesbrough. If United sign Ravanelli, as

Italian newspapers insist they will, he would be available for the knock-out stages. If United get there. We are told he will be cheering for Juventus tonight hut will he secretly be hoping United also progress?

Manchester United (probable): Schmeichel; G Neidle, May, Johnsen, P Neidle; Beckham, Keane, Butt, Giggs: Cantona, Solskjaer,

Milan's long-serving sweeper Franco Baresi, who has missed all four of their Champions' League games this season and watched his side lose two of them, must hold the defence together at FC Porto tonight if his team are to set up a quarter-fi-



Del Piero's star beginning to wane

He is arguably the most tal-ented young player in the coun-try, with a championship medal and a growing collection of international caps to his name. When be picks up the hall out on the left flank the stadium hums with excitement. Veteran male supporters and young girls alike - his picture adorns a thousand bedroom walls watch his every move.

Yet his form has dipped and questions are heing asked. Has he been found out? Was he just a meteor which flashed across the northern sky before hurn-ing itself out under the weight of expectation?

This is the sort of thing that was being written about Ryan Giggs not so long ago. Now it is being said of Alessandro Del Piero, the gifted Juventus striker who hopes to play against Giggs and Manchester

"Hopes to?" A year ago his place would have heen unquestioned. He had lit up the group stages of the Champions' League with a series of brilliant individual goals - Borussia Dortmund, Steaua Bucharest and Rangers were bewitched in turn. He was tipped to be the star of Euro '96.

Yet 1996 has proved a grim year for Del Piero. His Euro-pean Championship lasted 45 minutes before he was replaced by the less exhilarating but more reliable figure of Roberto Donadoni. Since then niggling injuries and inconsistency have put even his club place in doubt. His selection tonight is likely to be due to Antonio Conte's injury rather

than his own form.

Glenn Moore on a rare talent who may yet join the Italian exodus

lem. Exhaustion, mental as much as physical, has taken its toll while the injuries have been hard to shake off. Overplaying is seen as a British problem but. in one week last year, Del Piero played for Italy, the Under-21s, and the Italian Army (on national service). There were also Juventus' demanding Champi-ons' League and domestic

campaigns.
Now, it appears, Juventus
may be willing to take further
advantage of English's football's profligate mood and sell Del Piero as they did Fabrizio Ravanelli. Given Del Piero's

move hut last week Gianni Agnelli, still the power behind the Juventus empire, hinted at the possibility. "If an English chuh were to

make an offer for Del Piero it would depend on what the player wants," Agnelli said. Maybe. Ravanelli, also a childhood supporter of the

Biaconeri, was given no such choice. If he had heen he would have stayed. Del Piero, whose contract runs to 2000, may find himself in a similar position.

Having grown up idolising Michel Platini - whose No 10 shirt he now wears - Del Piero signed for the Vecchia Signora from Padova at 18. He scored five goals in 11 games in his first season but was almost sold to Parma at the end of it. Dino

Piero stayed to displace Rober-to Baggio for club and country and win the Fifa Young Player of the Year award for 1995. The goal ratio has slowed (20 in 76 Serie A games before this

season) but this is partly because he is usually played on the left side of a front three. For Italy he plays on the left of a midfield four but he can also play in the hole or as a conventional

forward.

Quite a catch then - but who could afford him? As he prepared to put himself in the shop window tonight, Del Piero said: "I wouldn't be surprised if an English club made a move for me. English football has undergone a vast expansion in terms of finance and skill levels. Also it is far less stressful to play in than Serie A. We'll have to wait and see whether I

£30,000

while, may yet rue his comments. He seems to be on something of a break himself; he has not scored in his last 12 games Scots oppose

break the duck.

re-match in Cyprus Scotland will resist any attempt

by Estonia to stage their World Cup re-match in Cyprus. The Estonian authorities have chosen the Mediterranean island as their preferred venue for the game, with 11 February the proposed date: But although the date may be acceptable, Scotland want the match staged closer to Britain for the sake of their travelling support

David Findlay, the Scottish Foothall Association spokesman, said: "We will resist any attempt to play in Cyprus. We do not see why our supporters should have to make a journey of more than five hours flying time when the original match was only a couple of

hours away."
Findlay said the SFA will press for the re-match to be played in southern Spain, southern France, southern Italy or southern Portugal "which are far closer for our supporters".

TODAY'S **NUMBER**

The coaches that the tennis player Mark Philippoussis has parted company with this year. Peter McNamara, who giuded the 20-year-old Aus tralian to his first ATP title wir in Toulouse in October, lasted only three months.

Australians expect gamble on Venables to pay off

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

John Flom .

Adem Poric ... Robbie Slater

The prospect of Terry Venables as El Supremo of their national football side is being greeted with equal measures of excitement and incredulity in

Soccer Australia is an organisation with big plans, which extend beyond merely qualifying for the World Cup finals for the first time in 24 years to actually making an impact in France in 1998. But it is also an organisation with such a reputation for poverty that it is widely believed here that it recently had its phone cut off because it was unable to pay its bills. That is factually incorrect.

said Soccer Australia's public relations officer, Steve Speziale. Phone lines were being switched over that day and we were far from being the only business cut off." All the same, news of the

£400,000 contract for one of the football world's highest profile operators has startled Australia. It is money, however, that Soccer Australia believes it will recoup. Venables' first duties with

the national side will be during a four-team tournament here next January, involving Norway, South Korea and New Zealand. His mere presence is confidently expected to double the the North Sydney club - the othgates for that series of match-



predicted to bring in more top-

in a country where three oth-

er roots - even the Soccer

who clinched the Venables deal

in Britain, is a refugee from rug

by league where he used to run

er significance of the appoint-

is the new manager of the Socceroos. So what has been the reaction to the appointment

Terry Venables (left)

Down Under? **Dave Hadfield** reports from Sydney ment is symbolic. The signing while Venables' influence on the international stage is also of Terry Venables is a statement

wants 10 go," said Speziale. class overseas opposition, with the attendant extra revenue Where it wants to go first and foremost, is to France, although from better crowds and televishould not really require a "People think about what Venables to get them there. it's going to cost to hring a per-son of Terry Venables' calibre Their Oceania qualifying group pitched them against Tahiti and to Australia, but they don't aceither the Sotomon Islands or knowledge the other side of the Tonga and they must then play equation - the fact that it's also the fourth-placed Asian side. going to bring in money," said

That opens up the possibility of a further European adventure for a Socceroo squad er codes of football have deepalready largely based on the op-posite side of the world from Australia chairman, David Hill,

about where Australian soccer

Chris Coyne .. Stan Lexarida Point SC to West Ham W Adelpide to West Ham VATIONWIDE FIRST DIVISION South Melbourne to Crystal Palac Australian Institute of Sport to QPR ndy Bernal .. Sydney Olympic to Reading . There are now more than 20

Cambridge to Coventry City....

West Ham to Southweston

St George's Buriapest to Sheffield Wed......£50,000

Australians playing professionally in England - ranging from Premiership regulars like Mark Bosnich and Robhie Slater down to the likes of Steve Riches of the Warringa Dolphins and Leyton Orient - and a total of almost 200 in Europe as a whole.

That makes Venables' desire to retain his English base a positive advantage, although Soccer Australia was at pains yesterday to stress that be will not be an absentee coach and will spend 45 percent of his time in Australia. His time, both at home and abroad, will also be

devoted to a battle for credibility for the game.

Although Soccer Australia has tried desperately hard to down play the ethnic base upon which most clubs here have been huilt and which led to frequent crowd trouble as old emnities were revived, football bere is still perceived as a game for recent immigrants.

Against that, football can claim to be the first code, founded 21 years ago, to have a truly national competition, even though it is often sparsely supported. They bridle here at sug-

AUSTRALIANS PLAYING IN ENGLAND

Devid Deal ...

Lucas Neili

£250,000

£300,000

.£85,000

£200,000

..£200,000

gestions that Venables is going into a football wilderness.

from those who have worked to eep the game affoat in the face of international indifference. The former Socceroo goalkeeper Jack Reilly summed it up when he described Venables' impending appointment as "a

"There are people in England

who have been lampooning us

as a sort of soccer banana re-

public," Speziale said. "But if

they are doing that, they are re-

ally lampooning themselves,

because they are keen enough

There is some criticism here

in Britain to have our players."

slap in the face for the people involved in the game in Aus-

Warner Bows Reme to Bristol City

Australian Institute of Sport to Mills

...Perth malia to Notte County.

.US University to Layton Orien

Evertor to Bristol City

last night was only the third sports item on the television bul-After his profile in Britain that might even come as some relief for Venables, but his expensive acquisition will not be considered a success unless football here soon has more

More to the point, for Soc-

cer Australia, is that the ap-

pointment should have an

impact on those who have stub-

bornly declined to become in-

volved. One small sign of how

far they have to go was that the

news of Venables' appointment

recognition to show for its

Birmingham must keep it up

atmosphere as on Sunday,"

away games and not performed

at our best and the team has to

learn to win in small stadiums.

The important thing to re-

member is that there will still be

three points to play for whatever

the size of the crowd and I will

be looking for the same kind of

performance as on Sunday."

Francis said.



Pressman backs foreigners "Regi came in and did well last year while Orlando and Kevin Pressman, the Sheffield Wednesday goalkeeper, be-lieves his cluh's foreign legion Berny have come in this season can shoot the Owls into Europe and all three have settled in very if they can continue to come to

of the Premiership. The Dutch duo of Regi Blinker and Orlando Trustfull and the Italian Benito Carbone showed that they have the heart to go with their blend of silky Continental skills on Monday night as David Pleat's side ended a run of 10 League and cop games without a win with a 2-0 victory over bottom of the table Nottingham Forest.

terms with the harsh demands

Trustfull and Carbone both bagged their first goals for the Hillsborough club, but it was the quality of their performance as much as their finishing power shire conditions that were more akin to the Arctic than an English autumn.

Pressman insists that Wednesday now have to start setting their sights high since they are back up to ninth place your Wednesday for 63 minutes in the table.

saw his opposite number Mark Crossley produce a man-ofthe-match performance at the other end to keep Forest in a

contest in which they were second best throughout. "Benny is the latest one to arrive and he's doing extremely well. He's settled down very quickly, trying hard to learn English, and has showed that he is a top-class performer.

"It's now just a question of getting that consistency and making sure that we grind out the results when we aren't playing so well." Trustfull, a £750,000 signing

that impressed in South York- from Feyenoord early in the season, and Carbone, a club record £3m buy from Intemazionale last month, finally found the fmishing touch that

last three matches, including home encounters with Blackburn and Southampton which they had also dominated. Pressman said: "We can start

looking to build and a European place is something we've got to aim for because it's so tight at For the Forest goalkeeper Crossley, born just a few miles away in neighbouring Barnsley,

il was a champagne performance that he could have done "We've just got to keep battling away and, if and when we get that win, it will hopefully

prove to be a turning point." he Frank Clark's side have now gone 12 Premiership matches without a win since their opening-day success at Coventry and have netted just 10 League

Crossley admits that they are going though a crisis of confidence, adding: "It's all about getting that win to restore our belief."

way we performed at Wolves. It ingham searching for a third successive Nationwide First Diwas our first away win of the season. The confidence was there vision win at Charlton tonight after the win over Bolton and we came through another test

aware of his side's tendency to hlow up against lesser-fancied opposition. Francis was delighted with

City's performance in Sunday's 2-1 victory over Wolves in front of nearly 23,000 fans at Mo-lineux. That followed on from their 3-1 home success over the leaders, Bolton, which attracted 17,000 fans in another highly charged atmosphere at St Andrew's. But Francis knows just how important it is for his side to come up with the goods in the less glamorous-looking games, particularly on their travels.

City have produced mept performances in a succession of away matches at Oxford, Portsmouth and Port Vale which have undermined their promotion credentials. However, after an away win against Wolves they are now looking to relaunch their campaign to climb into the Premiership.

"I was very pleased with the

stitute's bench.

There are unlikely to be any changes from the side, with the former Everton defender Gary Ablett set to be on the sub-

After Birmingham's success McGhee, aims to pick his team

back into the transfer market unless his players start producing the goods. The defeat means Wolves have taken only in front of a hig crowd. But at Chariton there will probably be nine points from 10 home eight or nine thousand fans at games and they have had to rely the game and it will be differon their away form to keep them ent circumstances. There obviwithin touching distance of the ously won't be the same kind of promotion pack. McGhee said: "There is no "We've played in front of sim-ilar sized crowds in a few recent crisis here. It is only a crisis in that we are ninth and we would

City, hinting that he will move

want to be higher. It won't he a crisis if we can take four to six points from our next two games at Stoke and Crystal Palace, I still think we can get things right and if it is with the players already here, then fine, but if not, and we need to add one or two then so be it. There is nothing I can do if the players are not prepared to take what we do on the training ground into a game." Steve Corica has been re-

called to the squad and the former England midfielder Geoff Thomas is in contention to start. the Wolves manager. Mark his first game for 20 months after a series of knee problems.

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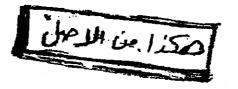
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Bray for cal direct g Mich.

files Deri Benera

sport



e: Students turn the > heat on Samoans

Rugby Union

DAVID LLEWELLYN : Cambridge University Western Samoa

Western Samoan tourists froze yesterday. But, in the teeth of the chill wind that cut across the pitch at Grange Road, pretty well everyone suffered in the numbing conditions, except for the hot-blooded students.

tourists on the back foot for dominant and comident were much of the game. There are Western Samoa 14

just two more matches to go before the big one – the Varsity
Match against Oxford at Twickenham on 10 December. On yesterday's evidence the Light Blues could prove a handful.

Indeed, the Western Samoans came close to defeat as an enterprising University side took the mitiative. By the end the forwards,

Corry called up to cover for England

Bristol's captain, Martin Corry, has quit as coach of the League one team London Irish, folland's squad for Saturday's Test against Italy as cover for the hack row, with Ben Clarke making only slow recovery from

If Clarke, who will be given a day or two yet to confirm his fitness, does not recover it is expected that Wasps' Chris Sheas-by will win his first cap, with Corry taking Sheasby's place on the replacements' bench. But there was better news of England's other two injury worriers.

Mark Regan, who has been out for a month with a broken thumh, again took full part in training as did the winger Adedayo Adebayo, who is due to win his first cap. He was given the option of resting a leg knock sus-tained in Bath's loss against Cardiff on Saturday but decid-

ed he was fit enough to practise.

England's preparations were disrupted, however. They were unable to train outside because in the First Division with all the necessary players. They needed a full-time rugby director and forwards coach. Now they have of snow and flooded pitches around their Thames Valley head-quarters and eventually worked-out on indoor tennis

courts at Bisham Abbey. _ Clive Woodward, the former England and Lions centre, lowing the arrival at the club of Willie Anderson.

Woodward, who left the cluh briefly during the summer when the annual meeting demanded

ing in Belfast two weeks ago I told Willie that if it were necessary for me to stand down in order for the club to secure his services on a full-time basis I would do so. Although I did not think it necessary, events and statements made since his arrival on Thursday have clearly made this action necessary by me.
"After two and a half years

work, the club finds itself back got one."

Irish are struggling with only one win from eight games and have scrapped their £500-perman match fee and reduced payments to leave scope for win bonuses.

They turned in a heart-warming performance to keep the for scrums instead of penalties so they at the set-nieces.

And they were not even fazed by the presence of Va'aiga Tuigamala, although the Cambridge coach, Tony Rodgers, did admit they were surprised that the Wasps and former All Black had been included in the tourists' line-up.

Yet the game had begun in unpromising fashion with a converted try for the centre To'o Vaega after just 27 seconds. But the threatened procession was halted, temporarily at first, by Bramley's fifth minute try, and ultimately by some classy and courageous defending. The tourists did hit back af-

ter the students opening score and Taigamala suddenly broke free to send Mark Fatialofa over for their second try in the 13th minute. But Fa'avaivai Tanoai's second successful conversion was their last score.

Thereafter Cambridge as-serted themselves, refusing to be that all officials should be of lirish descent, cannot devote himself full-time to coaching the team and Anderson is now in full charge.

Woodward said: "At a meeting in Religious transport in Religious transport in Religious Cartes and the Relig Morgan Garfield caught the ball and darted over. Roh Ashforth then landed a penalty, having missed both conversions. The Samoans held out, hnt morally victory was Cambridge's, Cambridge University: Tries Bramley, Gorfield, Penelty Astronth, Western Samont



Western Samoa's Va'aiga Tuigamala tries to power past the Cambridge students yesterday Photograph; David Ashdown

Crews may face **further** mileage

Sailing

STUART ALEXANDER

As if life were not hard enough, the 14 yachts starting the sec-ond leg of the BT Challenge from Rio de Janeiro to Welling-ton today have been told they may have to do an extra 600 miles if it looks as though they are going too fast and will arrive ahead of what appears to be an all-important timetable.

As the crews are all paying to make the trip of their dreams around Cape Horn this is something of a mixed hlessing. By the time they have endured the sort of bashing that sailing uphill, against the currents and winds, which is the essence of this adventure, they may he quite keen to shorten the 6,600 miles

rather than lengthen the misery.

But they had such a troublefree run from Southampton to Rio that Mike Golding brought his Group 4 across the finish three days ahead of expecta-tions. The worst huffeting was in the Solent at the start and, like the Vendée Globe singlehanders now crossing the equator, they were hardly troubled by the infamous, but not always inactive, Doldrums.

So they will all have to wait until after rounding the Horn to see whether they go direct to Wellington or receive radio instructions to go round a point 50 degrees south, 170 degrees east on the chart, to which they navigate using their satellite positioning systems. This is in order to ensure that the competitors arrive on 30 December.

Golding's lead on secondplaced Simon Walker (Toshiba) is just two hours and nine minutes. Fears that he might be held up while keel repairs were completed were dismissed vesterday, as were claims that there had been delays in reporting the damage. So battle will be rejoined.

with Chris Tibbs, nearly another nine hours behind in Concert, determined to close the gap and justify his place as the skippers' choice as dark horse. Prestart favourite to set the pace, Richard Tudor (Nuclear Electric) has to make up over 40 hours on Golding in conditions where gear damage and crew sickness can make a big impact. who made 25 unforced errors in the 41-minute match at Madi- in 1992, yet saw one dismasting and three others severely impaired. It can still serve up some of the nastiest seas in the world. Of the flashiest scas in the world. Bt 60.084 chapter let 80 de Janeiro): 1 M. Golding (Grup 4): 26 days 3 in 47min 1.5 seg. 2 5 Walser (John-ba): 26:5:56.16; 3 C. Tibbe 26: 14.52:23, 4 A. Hindley (Sale: the Chatter): 26:22:5.39; 5 R. Mermeether (Commercial Union): 27:9:58.45; 6 O Tomkinson (30m): 27:9:43.38; 7 M Lodge (Morosota): 27:14:30.55; 8 A Domoson I Heath braued: 27:14:30.55; 8 A Domoson I Heath braued: 27:14:30.248; 10 R. Tudor (Nuclear Electric): 27:20:30.15.

Sports books

Squash

SPOTES BOOKS
WILLIAM HILL SPORES BOOK OF THE YEAR
Shortlist (where to be amounted today): Geofficey Beatifie - On the Ropes: Boding as a Way
of Life (Bollance); Deedel Poot - Moly Hammond:
The Reasons Why - A Biography (Robson Books);
Donald MeRita- - Dash, Trade Lost in Boding (Moinstreom): Sea Mett - A Glist Gukle to Ball Gornes:
What Men Head to Know (Romstreom); Joan Ryan
- Little Gits, in Preny Bouss: The moling and breaking of diffic gymass; and figure skates (The
Women's Press); Charles Wallems: - Bradman:
An Australian Hero (Little, Brown).

Yorkshire's Simon Parke became Britain's third quarter-finalist in the World Open in Karachi after beating the

Pakistani detending champion. Scot-tand's Peter Nicol meets Craig Rowland.

soth-seeded Del Harris, while another Colchester player, Chris Walker, plays Brett Martin, the Australian third seed.

Brett Martin, the Australian that seed. MEN'S WORLD OPEN (Kamach, Pal) Second round: Jursher Khan (Pak) bt J Power (Can) 15-13 15-13 15-12 15-2 9-15 15-9 15-13: C Rowland (Aus) bt O Harms (Eng) 15-14 15-13 15-7; C Welker (Eng) bt Zorak Jahan (Pak) 15-6 15-12 15-11; Zubair Jahan (Pak) bt All (Aus) bt A Corns (Eng) 10-15 15-12 Extes (Aus) bt M Corns (Eng) 10-15 15-11 15-10 15-8; S Perke (Eng) bt J Bonetat (Fir 15-12 15-13 15-12; B Freez (Ger) 15-12 15-9 15-13.

Sweden have named an unchanged team for the Davis Cup final against France in Malmo from 29 November to 1 December. Thomas Enqvist, the world No 9, Stefan Edberg, In his last professional

appearance, and the doubles pair Nick-

appearance, and the notations pain trans-tas Kuth and Jones Bjorkman will play un-der team captain Carl-Axel. Cedric Pioline, Amaud Boetsch, Guy Forget and Guillaume Rapux represent France. For

get has replaced Boetsch as Man

Pierce's partner for the Hopman Cup in Perth from 29 December to 4 January.

Patriotic fervour gets Becker's campaign off to a flier Group match in just 78 minutes. ing few games, Becker made a Richard Krajicek, who has

reports from Hanover.

Boris Becker, the defending champion, opened his cam-paign at the ATP World Chamoionship with a workmanlike 6-4. 7-5 victory over the French Open champion, Yevgeny Kafelnikov, yesterday.

Roared on by a partisan 12,000 crowd, Becker utilised his strong serve-and-volley game to clinch the round-rohm Red following a serious wrist injury at Wimbledon.

However, the German has been drawn in the toughest group of the round-rohin stage with the world No 1, Pete Sampras. and Andre Agassi. It was important for Becker to beat

After both players struggled to hold their serve in the open-vance to the semi-finals.

struck 17 aces, then served out for the match in the next game. The championship, which brings together the top eight players in the world, is played in a round-robin format in the early stages. The top two players from each of two groups ad-

Becker, who turns 29 later key break of serve in the fifth struggled with motivation probthis week, has been playing game on his way to the first set. lems since his Wimbledon tri-some brilliant tennis in the last The second set was tight un-umph this year, was firing on all The second set was tight un- umph this year, was firing on all was very happy with my game, month after returning to form til Becker broke again to lead cylinders in a 6-4, 6-4 victory over especially my strengths: my In New York, Martina Hingis following a serious wrist injury 6-5 after Kafelnikov hit a fore- Michael Chang in the opening forehand and serve. In New York, Martina Hingis made an impressive debut at the match of the White Group. hand out of court. Becker, who

The Dutchman took 62 minutes to defeat the American world No 2, hitting 20 aces in the process.

It was a confidence-boosting performance from Krajicek, who just managed to qualify for the tournament as the eighth player in the world rankings.

in the second to join the St Louis Car-dinals' Jim Bakken (1967) and Min-nesota Vikings' Rich Karlis (1989) as the only players to kick seven field goals

Canada S Donovan Balley, the Clympic 100 metres champion, and Michael Johnson of the United States, Clympic 200 and 400m champion, will meet the a 150m race in May 1997 to decide which of the two world record holders

can lay claim to the title of world's fastest human. The venue for the race has yet

in a game. NFL: Dalles 21 Green Bay 6.

Athletics

Wimhledon marked Krajicek's only tournament victory this year. Having secured the first Grand Slam title of his career, the Krajicek admits he has struggled to lift himself for oth-

Chang acknowledged the improvement. "Richard really ments. She reached the final at served very well," Chang said. another and the semi-finals at sparse crowd of 8,786.

"That was my best performance against a big player since Wimbledon," Krajicek said. "I was very happy with my game, "Richard has come here with nothing to lose. He was the last guy in... that showed in the way he played." a fourth. Hingis, who beat Monnothing to lose. He was the last guy in... that showed in the way he played."

made an impressive debut at the season-ending Chase Championships, overwhelming Irina Spirlea 6-1, 6-2,

Since reaching the US Open semi-finals two months ago, the 16-year-old Swiss has climbed from 16th to fifth in the world by winning two tourna-

son Square Garden. *For my first time here, it was not a had experience." Hingis said.

Hingis's easy victory was matched by Lindsay Davenport's 6-3, 6-2 win over Barbara Paulus, but not by last year's finalist, Anke Huber, who lost to

SPORTING DIGEST

Aberdeen have taken the Norwegian de-fender Germund Brendesether on tri-

Peterborough have signed the Stoke strik-er Martin Carruthers, with the fee to be decided by a tribunal. Carruthers cost Stoke £200,000 from Aston Villa.

FA Carling Promiership

3 Le-cester v Everton _....

Southampton v Leeds

8 Sunderland v Sheff Wed

9 West Ham v Derby.....

10 Barnsley v Portsmout

15 loswich v Port Vale .

17 Oldhem v Oxford Litzl

Second Division

31 Wycombe v Preston

32 Cardiff v Hereford ...

Third Division

*Pools panel vote.

Jon Royce, the England Under-21.
coach who led his side to a European bronze medal in Denmark last September, will lead an England squad in a six nations' tournament in Karachi in March to celebrate Pakistan's Gold-CENTRAL DIVISION St Loaks. en Jubilee. Royce has already been named as Engand's coach for next year's Under-21 World Cup at Milton Keynes.

ice bockey NHL: Boston 4 San Jose 2; Flonds 2 Washington 4; Phoenix 2 Detroit 2 (ot); Calgary 5 NY Rangers 3.

Pittsbergh5
ATLANTIC DIVISION 11 3 5 61

...11 7 3 57 41 25 ...11 9 0 65 60 22 Anahelm4 13 3 54 77 11

Motor racing Jonathan Palmer, the BBC Grand Prix commentator and former Formula One driver, was involved in a road accident in Portugal yesterday which resulted in the death of snother driver. Palmer, 40, was driving a Honda Prelude when it col-ided head-on with another car on a mountain road. The driver of the other car was killed while Palmer fractured his collarbone, arm and taribone. Rugby League

Warrington Wolves yesterday signed a four-year deal worth £960,000 with their long-standing sponsors Greenalls, one of the biggest deals in the game's history. Castleford Tigers have signed the Australian prop Sean McVean on a two-year

Oldham Beers have signed the 22-year-old goal-kicking centre Nathan Tumer from Queensland Crushers in Australia. Rugby Union

Former Scotland prop Paul Burnell has been given 6 chance to resurrect his international career by being selected for the Scottish Edles two match tour

for the Scottish Edies two match tour of Spain and Portugal.
SCOTTISH EDIES SQUAD (v Spain XV, Swite, 27 Nov; v Portugal, Faro, 30 Nov): Backs: R Ediesson (London Scottish), 6 Frae-er (London Inch), A James (Wasps), J Hessilton (London Scottish), P McAlastair (Biacheath), 11 Milliand Illondon Scottish), A Nicol (Bath), J Steele (London Scottish), A Nicol (Bath), J Steele (London Scottish), A Nicol (Bath), J Steele (London Scottish), C Waterloo), P Burnesi (London Scottish), D Grown (Wasps), M Duthis (London Scottish), J Grown (Wesps), M Duthis (London Scottish), J Reily (London Scottish), I Mackensie (London Scottish), J Neily (London Scottish), I Mackensie (London Scottish), B Peters (Bath), A Reed (Wasps), M Scott (Orrein, 1 Smith (Goucester), K Stewart (Cardiff), M Stewart (Northempton), C Tarbuck (London Scottish), YOUR MATCHES: Cambridge Univ 13 West

Yves Parlier leads the Vendé Globe sin-ge-handed race from Isabette Autosiar and Christophe Augin as the compet-tors made quick time into the southem hemisphere yesterday. in Auckland, New Zealand, the opening races of the Sterriager Cup were postported because of 45-knot winds. Chris Law is the only British seed in the Steinlager.

Snooker

Petri Hom 29 December to 4 January.
ATP WorkLD CHAMPIONSHIP (Hanover):
White group: R Krappek (Neth) bt M Chang
(LISTS-46-4. Red group: 2 Bectier (Ger) bt
Xgleinkov (Rus) 6-47-5.
CHASE CHAMPIONSHIP (New York) First
round: L Obserpool (LIST bt 9 Paulus (Aut) 6-3
6-2; M Hings (Switt bt 1 Spirics Rhom) 6-1
6-2; I Mayok (Croa) bt A Huber (Ger) 7-5 6-3.

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over £100 in a Watch. For just £4.95 plus 95p P+P Credit Cards-01733 890155 heques & FO's in Wrightway Marketing Li (Dept. •• 1 X | O'Flag Business Exchange Peterborough PE15TX



Hendry made to struggle

Stephen Hendry, the defending UK champion, saw a 4-1 lead wiped out by a player ranked Hendry, who had to come

from 6-4 down to defeat Dominic Dale 9-6 in the first round, was hoping for a more commanding performance against Rohert Milkins, a 20-year-old from Gloucester... Breaks of 74, 82 and 108 ap-

peared to have put the World No I well on course for his 14th. successive victory in snooker's second most prestigious tour-But Milkins, who upset Neal Foulds 9-3 in the first round,

showed determination and a fair amount of skill as he battled back to level at 4-4. James Wattana, was facing an uphill struggle to reach the last 16 against Paul Hunter, an 18-year-old from Leeds. Hunter, who trounced Willie Thorne 9-0 in the first round,

Both matches finish today. Brawn in line

for Ferrari

Motor racing

र्त

leads Wattana 5-3.

Ross Brawn, the English technical director of Benetton during Michael Schumacher's Formula One World Championship winning campaigns, is poised to link up with the German driver again at Ferrari, writes Derick Allson.

Benetton announced last night that Pat Symonds had been promoted from race en-

gincer to technical director. Brawn's move to Ferrari, expected to take effect in the new year, casts doubt over the future of another Englishman, John Barnard, who currently heads Ferrari s design operation from his Surrey headquarters.

Towers overpowered again Basketball

Ankara m Turkey yesterday, their fifth defeat out of eight in the European Cup first-round

was ruled out with a calf injury.

INFA CLIP Third round first legs Monaco (F)

TRANSCRIENT'S POSTPONEMENTS
INSTRUMENTS POSTPONEMENTS
INSTRUMENTS STATE U.S. Second Obtales:
Crease V Bistol City, Notes County V Bury, WristInstru Proharbarn, York V Melsall, Third Divisions
Layton Control V Migna: Hartispool V Carolff, MansSeld V Chester, Rechastel V Searborough,
BELL'S SCOTTISM LEAGUE First Divisions
26 Not).

GBI VALTHARIA SPALDING CHALLENGE CUPWorking v Welling.

DR MARTENE LEAGUE Premier Ordeleas
Altysatoria v Chalamfriam; Burnon seria & Al v Hearings; Halassman v Blay Rouser; Sudaury Tra v Reiford Town; Telauceria Coy v Newport APC
Southern Divisions Circnoster Town v Criderford Town; Telauceria Coy v Newport APC
Southern Divisions Circnoster Town v Criderford Town; Telauc Town v Newport CWI. Tonbridge
Angels v Marganet Witting Town v Vate Town, Midland Divisions: Bedeurch Lurd v Reddich Litch, MonGrantiam Town; Sanford Rangers v Sustain
Coulted Town.

PONTHES LEAGUE Premier Division: Derby v Bischburn: Sheffisis Wednesday v Birmangham. Bischburn, Sheffeid Wednesdey v Birmengham.

AROEMAT'S LATE, RESULTS: FA Carling Premischies Sheff Wed 2 (Trustich 85, Onthore 85).

Notime Forest Q, dels League Pre-misc zuber Sheffein 15.

Regelmann & Rechedge 1 Dutsech 1. Frest Disslore: Croydon 2 Narion 1. Tritor Divisions: Tring Years 2 Epson & Eucel 1. Undfand League Premisc Disister: Peutposeal Hydr (Un Unity) Sperturn, Challengie Cup associal pounds Astron Unity

Quickly 2, Ameri Insurance Ontebbasion League Caper Lution 3 Normach Q. Speecha Leaguest Execution 6 Valledold 2. Leaguing positions: 1 Bestzelom (P12 Pra33); 2 Reaf Machd (13-29); 3 Directive Counts (13-27).

last month. Yesterday American Ricky Winslow led Ankara's

RICHARD TAYLOR

qualifying group.

London's key American play-maker. Danny Lewis, fouled

GM VALIDIAL SPALDING CHALLENGE CUP.

A crowd of 6,000 jeered and whistled London Towers to a 70-61 defeat against PTT

out with 12 minutes to play as the Budweiser League champions trailed throughout the entire game. But the crucial blow came before the game when 6ft 8in veteran Alan Cunningham

Ankara joined group leaders of Verona in completing the double over London after beating them 72-61 at Wembley

RESULTS

3 (Anderson 48, Speta 70, Blondasu 76) Harnburg (Gar) 0: Club Brugge (Bel) 2 Schalke (Ger) 1 (Bueskans 50).

Grantform Town; Stafferd Ranges v Suitor Coldified Town, ICES GUARDIAN INSURANCE CUP Second

American football Chris Bonlol equalled an NFL record with seven field goals – five in the first half – as Dellas Cowboys best Green Bay Packers 21-6 on Monday Bonlol hit field goals of 45, 37, 42, 45 and 35 yards in the first half and 39 and 29 yards — the caccast by light the ST Just Can

scorers with 24 points, supported by 19 from Turkish international Pinar Sedat.

London's statistics reflected their struggle with Lewis fouling out on just eight points and England internationals Karl Brown and Neville Austin scoring seven and six respectively. Paul Deppisch topped their scorers with 16 points and his two three-pointers kept them in

touch at 33-27 down at half-time. American Joe Hooks and Martin Gottfried scored 11 each. London can still qualify in fourth place from the six-team group but must at least win their final home game against Yu-goskwia's Podgorica in two weeks before their last fixture against

Football

GROUP A

7.30 unless stat

Widzew Locks v Bo

Fenerbahce Stadium)

FC Porto y Milen

(Das Antas Stadium)

FA CARLING PREMIE

FIRST DIVISION

Stoke v Wolvenk

Milwell y Shrow

THIRD DIVISION

LINGSOND LEAGUE Pro

semborgy IFK Goth

Liverpool v Everton (7.45) ..

Charlton v Birmingham (7-45)

GM VAUGHALL CONFERENCE SPALDING CUP SECOND ROUND

v Faciday, Challengs Cop e as Boston Utd v Lincols Ved

estuad v Morecombo (7.46) -

repress coston and victions are.

DR MARTENS LEAGUE Presider Divisions Baldock Yours v Numerons Safetium v Numerons Safetium v Numerons (7.45). Stimphourne v Carabiotiga Cay (7.45). Middland Divisione: Evestram Urd v Temsorthe Pages Rampers v Stouthorige: VS Rugby v Corby Toors. Southern Division Beating v Wagstram Carabiotic Eventual Carabiotic Streets.

MATRONNATOE POOTBALL LEAGUE

GROUP D

INTERNATIONAL (Manusfield): England 1 Ctina 4. (Eng fires): Women's singles: 7 Woodward (Sussec) lost to W Humin 2-13 3-11. Moud doubles: N Robertson (Northans) and S Hardaker (Kerd) br C Wei and L Lufang 1817 15-12. Meur's doubles: C Hurt (Lancashire) and J Quirn (shiddleset) lost to X Junand M Zhenyu 17-15 12-15 11-15. (England lead str metch series 3-2). Mark Kormend in Hungary.

Radminton

TODAY'S FIXTURES v Weymouth; St Leonards v Havent Town. SCREWFIX District LEAGUE Premier Division Twenton Town v Bideford Town. EAN CUP CHAMPIONS' LEAGUE NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE First DIVI

MORTH WEST COUNTES LEAGUE First Divisions Citivere v Newcastle Town: Pennitr v Prescot Cables, St Neiers Town: Doorde. JEMSON WESSEK LEAGUE Flest Divisions Petersheld Town: Christchurch. France Culp First resent: Bolton Wenderers v Derby Courty. Petershorough Utd v Stehengs Borough: Welling Utd v Woodrester Utd. Pymouth Angle v Brighton: Croydon Addielic Servesand & Northilest: Wycombe Wanderers v Counthiers Futherin v Galengham. First round replays Boreham Wood v Erheld.
PORTHIS LEAGUE Premier Division: Tanmerer V Oldhum (7.0). Fireston v Blockpool (7.0); Sunderland v West Boron (Durham Cay FC. 7.0); Sunderland v West Boron (Durham Cay FC. 7.0). Second Division: Garnsby v Weetham (7.0); Karrisled v Man Cay (7.0); Exactled v Burny (7.0). Third Division: Sunderland v Burny (7.

THE COUNTRES OF ORIGIN SERIES: Londor Countries v Agendro (at Taichenham, 2.0); Nort Countries v Queensland (at Huddensleit; West em Countries v South Africa A (at Easter).

em Lourisis v South Africa A (at Eleter). AMELO-WELSH: CUP POOL 2A: London Insh Ebber Valle. **Basketball**

Other sports poscenic: British lightweight tide: M Ayess (Tool rat, holder) v C Dunne (Hollowsy) (Wernbisy).

Boxing The on-off World Boxing Organisation bantamweight title fight between hold-er Robbie Regan and Scottish challenger Drew Docherty is off again. Already post-poned twice, the fight was re-scheduled for 30 November at the Rhondda Fach Sports Centre in Thorstown post for Re-Sports Centre in Tylorstown only for Re-gan to be pulled out this morning when he went down with a virus that caused the last postponement.

Cricket

Football Leicester have agreed to extend Merk Robins' loan spell at FC Copenhagen for a further fortnight to 1 December so he can see out the Danish season.

POOLS FORECAST

2 Coventry v Aston VBIs2 37 Scunthorpe v Darlington... Also playing (not an composit): Barnet v Don-caster, Brighton v Certisle, Cambridge United v Leyton Drient. a *Noom Forest v Blackbum (postponed). X Playing Friday: Chester v Coichester. Bell's Scottish League Preceier Division 40 Dundee Uts v Raith ...

Also playing (not on coupons): Dunfermane 11 Burningham v Swindon 12 Charlton v Bradford Scottish League First Division 42 Felidirk v St Mirren 43 Greenock Moron v Stirling... 44 Partick v Anthe 18 Reading v OPR 45 St Johnstone v Clydebank

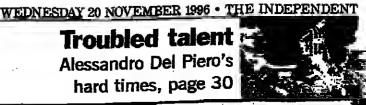
Also playing inot on coupons): East Fife v Dundee. Playing Friday: Sheffield United v Bolton. Playing Sunday: West Brom v Norwich City. Second Division 46 Ayr v Queen of South. 20 Blackpool v Notts County 47 Clyde v Stranger..... 21. Brentford v Wresham ... 48 Dumberton v Beranck... 2 Bristol City v Pelerborough 49 Hamilton v Brechin 23 Burnley v Bournemouth ... Also playing Inot on coupons): Livingston V Sternousemut, Third Division: Alloe v Albion. 27 Luton v Bristol Rovers ... 29 Shrewsbury v Stockport

14

Four domes. Chalses v Newcastle, Manchester City v Tranmere, Chasterfield v Watford, Falkirk v St, Mirren. Five aways: Manchester United, Oxford United, Milwell, Fulham, Aberdeen Ten homes: Liverpool, Southampton, West Ham, Crystel Palace, Stoke City, Gillingham, Northamoton, Scarborough, Dundee Unred.

FOUR MATCHES: Cambridge Univ 13 West om **Samoe 14. Postponed:** Leinsger v Australia **Salling**

courses runnarum cryameroristes (Pre-sion) First round: 5 Daws (Eng b J Burnett (Scol 9-5; S As (Pak) bt J Ferguson (Eng) 9-4; M Clark (Eng) bt T Jones (Eng) 9-6; A Mo-Marus (Scol bt I Sargesm (Wal) 9-6; D Gray (Eng) bt O Harold (Eng) 9-6.



Evans eager to deliver derby blow

Football

Liverpool may have failed to win in their last four meetings with Everton, but the Anfield club's manager, Roy Evans, will be expecting a reversal of fortune in tonight's 155th

Merseyside League derby. Joe Royle's arrival at Everton two years ago this month was marked by a 2-0 victory over Liverpool, with Duncan Ferguson spearheading the assault. Since then the Goodison manager has secured two draws and an Anfield win, with Andrei Kanchelskis' double securing a 2-1 success in the correspondng fixture last season.

With Liverpool's challenge for the Premiership gaining momentum, there is more than a matter of local pride, and personal revenge, at stake for Evans.

"This is not just another game," Evans said, "it's a derby match and it means a great deal for the football fans of this city. On one hand we've got to make sure we don't get too carried away by the occasion, but on the other we have to show passion and pride, especially so after last year when Everton beat us at Anfield.

"Everton have enjoyed a good run against us, but these things happen in football and we've had good spells in some of the games without coming away with a victory."

Evans has a glittering array of talent at his disposal, with more than £15m worth of it expected to be sat on the bench in the shape of Stan Collymore, Patrik Berger and Phil Babb.

Yet Evans knows that his stylish side must be prepared to take on and counter Evertoo's robust manner. There is a squad of 16 and I won't be making mass changes, although there are one or two options that I will use if I decide they are right for us,"

added Evans, who brought back Jamie Redknapp and Neil Ruddock at Leeds on Saturday and saw them both excel in a 2-0

"But whatever team we put out, it's important that they show full commitment for the full 90 minutes, because that's the one thing you can't do with-out in a derby.

"Once you have battled you hope that the football will then come through and it would be nice if we could win this one, both for local pride and to maintain our position in the

Royle faces even more pressing selection problems as he agonises over whether to make changes to the side that humbled Southampton 7-1 on Saturday.

Ferguson is ready to return after a two-month absence with a knee injury that required tempted to recall the £4m Scottish striker, who he describes as "a hig-game player".

The Everton manager has already showed that he is not pair his play.

Straid to change a winning Now Leeds, fearing Brolin team and the prospect of link-ing Ferguson with the £4.5m new signing, Nick Barmby, is one he will relish, with Graham Stuart the most likely player to stand aside.

We needed special demands for the Southampton game when Craig Short made way so that we could bring Tony Grant into midfield and we might need special demands for the derby," said Royle, who has seen injury worries over Barmby and Joe Parkinson clear while John Ebbrell is also pressing for a recall after returning to fitness.

"I woo't be afraid to make changes if I feel I need to, but I certainly won't be saying what the side will be."

The game was scheduled for Sunday, 20 October and both clubs will be hoping that the cold

snap that has gripped the country does not put paid to the fixture for a second time.

Liverpool's progress in the European Cup-Winners' Cup and Coca-Cola Cup has already led to a congested fixture list at this relatively early stage of the season, while Everton will broadcast the game live on a giant screen at Goodison where it is hoped a crowd of 6,000 will watch the action

Leeds have urged their trou-bled Swedish striker, Tomas Brolin, to return to Yorkshire and have tests on his damaged ankle to clarify the extent of the

njury.
Brolin was due to join Sampdoria on loan with a view to a permanent transfer earlier this month, but that deal collapsed when the Serie A club's doctors ruled him unfit.

They claimed the player had not properly recovered from the effects of a broken ankle, sustained a year before joining Leeds, arguing the screws inserted in his foot would im-

might be forced to retire, want him to seek a second opinion from a leading orthopaedic sur-geon. The club's director and solicitor, Peter McCormick, said; "The player has now appoint-ed a Fifa-registered agent in London. I have sent a lengthy

communication to him requesting that Brolin returns to this country to be examined by a leading orthopaedic surgeon. Once that examination has

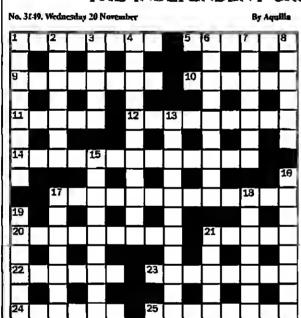
been carried out and the results are known. Leeds will be io a position to consider the various legal options before taking the next step,



Steffi Graf, the world's No 1 tennis player (left), presents a bouquet of roses to her old rival Gabriela Sabatini, who retired from the game last month, at a ceremony during the season-ending finale, the Chase Championship, in New York yesterday Photograph: Osamu Honda/AP

Venables takes Australian job

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



- ACROSS This reptile is around
- pieces! [8] Not anchored, these days,
- at Split? (6) For example, good and had Roman general takes woman's title ...(S)
- 10 ... to establish one male at-
- titude (ñ) 11 Composer spilling beer after waltz begins (5)
- 12 Stool very rickety in Ja-maica Inn. for example (4
- 14 More than liberal, too compliant! (13) 17 Bond follows her, say, with
- official declaration (13) 20 Body of water in Europe. (One in Asia is an alterna-
- tive) (6,3) 21 Obscure WW II force go
- 23 Crown left in ship's tender

- gets upset [11]
- Restricted, you once had to
- 1.3 Changing to universal or-gan-pieces in church [11]

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- from the sound of them (S) DOWN
- Celebrity on new diet (7)
 A king supports boy with
 position finding device (5)
 Tuncless loud noise MU
- Crazy over a picture in or-namental sword (9) Settle to clear up? (4,3)

- 24 Like wood that is wet after midnight! [0] 25 Judges of she-donkeys.
- Useless person still joins

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t9t6 Disease of horse associates people (8) Fahutous girl left with hope-chest? (7)

15 Detachment in quarantine

- 18 Fruits in personal belong-
- Being drunk, go on spree

I

ings (7) One with family in Dad's Army on walking holiday

Venables added that be had accepted the Australian job - concern is making sure that I do

Terry Venables accepted two jobs in one day yesterday when he announced that, in addition to taking over as Australian national coach. he would also be-

was at his Kensington club, Scribes West, at lunchtime to explain that the lure of the next World Cup had persuaded him to take Soccer Australia's £200.(XX)-a-year offer.

"What interested me was the chance to be involved in international football again. Venables said. "I had two-anda-half years with England, and really enjoyed it, and although I don't regret the decision I made there was a sense of frustration after Euro 96.

"I would have liked to finish the job I'd started properly and

there's the possibility of that can do it as well. Some people

running for 19 months starting come chairman of Portsmouth. on 1 January - despite more luably from club sides both in

England and on the continent. The new post will see him criss-crossing the continent to keep an eye on Australian players such as Mark Bosnich, Steve Corica and Ned Zelic who are playing in Europe, while en-abling him to enjoy his first love of working with players in the

training ground. wasn't just the money situation. although I know it's a vast amount for a country like Australia," he said. "This is a hig ehallenge, and a hig reward if I

might say it's harmy, bui I haven't started yet and my real what I feel is right.
"I feel I've got a better group

think. And you've got to re-member that before Euro 96 most people were saying that English players weren't good

Venables then revealed that he would be moving from the director of football role into the shoes of old his friend Jim Gregory at Fratton Park. It was a possibility before

I've had very hig offers, that I would do that and Marmuch higger than this, and it tin Gregory [Portsmouth's managing director] is for it, but il won't take away what I'm do-ing with Australia because from the beginning of the season I've tion," he said, "It's heen working quite well. I'll still help him as much as I can but getting ooto the training ground has been difficult."

favours so wide, when he expects to speod "around 40 per cent" of his time down under, Venables was emphatic.

"How many chairmen go to the club every day?" he asked. "I haven't been to every game so far, but there's a good shape to the club and I'm there to belp all parts of the club from the experience I bave."

For Dave Hill, the Soccer Australia chief, the cacher of attracting Venables to the Socceroos' cause, and find a way of boosting crowds from a paltry average of 7,000, was clear. We were determined to

best coach and the best leadership for the squad, and Terry is the best result we could've Pressed on whether he would hoped for," Hill said.

ney next month, to begin planning his side's World Cup campaign. Those plans start with the Four Nations Cup in Jaouary, involving New Zealand, Norway and South Korea, with Venables watching bis charges for the first time in Melbourne - probably against

the Kiwis - on 18 January. Australia begin their France 98 qualifying games in June. with six matches in a month against the likes of Tahiti and Fiji before - if successful - a two-legged November play-off.

Wenger in talks over £10m Weah deal

ALAN NIXON

Arsene Wenger, the Arsenal manager, flew to Turin on Sunday to watch George Weah play for Milan. Wenger had talks with Weah's advisers afterwards in an attempt to tempt the

Liberian striker as soon as pos-

Wenger is hoping that his long friendship with Weah will prove decisive as he moves to bring him to Highbury in a £10m deal. Weah has told Milan that he would like to move at the end of this season to try his luck in England or America, Milan

over Weah at Monaco, is determined to bring that timing forward, ideally to around Christmas. The Frenchman will report back to the Highbury hierarchy with the figures for the deal, both now and at the end of the season.

Milan would want a large fee for Weah to leave immediately as they do not have a replacement for him in their bid for the Champions' League, Kluivert is already cup-tied. Wenger has also been linked with the Juventus full-back Moreno Torrihave lined up Ajax's Patrick celli. who plays against

Kluivert as Weah's replace- Manchester United in the Champions' League tonight.

One striker who is happy where he is, is Aston Villa's Savo Milosevic who yesterday made a dramatic plea to be allowed to stay at Villa Park. The Yugoslav international insisted he would not be going to Perugia even if the two clubs agreed a deal and said he wanted to play for his manager. Brian Little,

Milosevic could return to action in Saturday's Midlands derby at Coventry City if his proposed £4.5m move collapses. Little is still optimistic of completing the transaction which would enhance his

Milosevic might solve a shortterm problem for Little as his leading scorer Dwight Yorke

will be unavailable on Saturday while away on World Cup duty with Trinidad and Tobago. Another tiff could be settled at Middleshrough after the manager, Bryan Robson, announced that the Brazilian Emerson will be staying with the cluh. Robson emerged from talks with the midfield player at

> dlesbrough fans wanted to hear: "Emo is staying at the club." Robson has promised to try

the Riverside Stadium to make

the six word statement all Mid-

chances of signing Liverpool's to make life as comfortable f7m-rated Stan Collymore. But possible for Emerson's horr possible for Emerson's hou sick girlfriend Andrea, by pr viding her with a permane interpreter.

Internazionale yesterd played down speculation lin ng their British coach R Hodgson with a move to Blace burn. The Italian cluh's vic president Gianmaria Visco said they had received no a proach and that the time v not right for any club to ask p mission to speak to Hodgso Peterborough yesterday pr.

ed company with the assist

manager, Lil Fuccillo, and first team coach, Mick Hals as an economy measure.



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